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VOLUME 4, EDITION 1

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## QUOTE OF NOTE:

“Getting kids involved in cycling is really what’s generated my interest.”

– Dr. Marc Eisen

See story page 14

## ON THE COVER

Wethersfield Community For the Resistance Co-Founders Kelly De La Cruz, Jessica K. Martin and Kaci White display a sign for their grassroots organization.

Photo by Lisa Brisson  
See story page 19

- 4 What a turkey!
- 8 Dine by the water
- 12 Making new strides
- 17 Helping families
- 23 Calendar
- 24 Events spotlight
- 28 Slice of LIFE
- 30 People notes
- 36 News roundup
- 38 First novel
- 41 A new leash on LIFE
- 48 Letters
- 57 Living Spaces

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Photos by George Savic

# What a turkey!

Wild bird with an abundance of personality captures the hearts and minds of Wethersfield

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

**M**ove over, Red Onion. There's a new mascot in town and he's rapidly becoming a cult figure in Old Wethersfield and beyond.

His name is Kevin and he's an adolescent male turkey who has made the Broad Street Green and intersection of Spring and Maple streets his personal domain. People began taking note of his near-daily presence back in the spring.

Kevin – the name was selected in an unofficial online poll – has his own public Facebook page that by the time you read this may be up to 4,000 followers.

He has two lines of T-shirts for sale, just don't spill on them while drinking out of a Kevin coffee cup or Kevin wine glass. He's been featured on at least one television newscast and the Wethersfield Country Store has

Kevin-inspired chocolate treats for sale. His 2018 calendars keep selling out.

One Facebook post suggests changing the nickname of the high school sports teams from Eagles to Turkeys. We're not sure how that would fly.

This is not your typical wild turkey. Most of them congregate in a flock; he's a solo act. He's not afraid of people, unless they get too close, or motor vehicles. He also has a distinct personality and plenty of attitude.

Kevin has evaded countless attempts by police animal control and citizens alike to capture and relocate him to a safer area. That just adds to the mystique.

The question now is whether every entry in the upcoming annual Scarecrows Along Main that begins Oct. 7 will be created in a turkey theme. Don't bet against it.

Both political parties are rumored to be seeking Kevin's

endorsement in the Nov. 7 municipal election. He's holding out and may decide to run for mayor as a petitioning candidate.

Animal Control Officer Deborah Monde can't help but smile when she talks about him. Every time she tries to capture him he either scoots away into the underbrush or flies up into a tree.

"Kevin's a rock star," she said.

He's the animal world's equivalent of a teenage boy. Monde said she can tell that by the length of the "beard" male turkeys have on their chest; his is not fully grown.

She keeps trying to capture him when he's near busy Route 3 because he has a bad habit of walking into the street. Kevin has already caused one crash when a motorist took evasive action to avoid hitting him and struck

another vehicle.

Imagine

explaining that to the insurance company. Her best guess is that Kevin sees his reflection in passing cars, particularly the hubcaps, and does what any male turkey would do to an intruder on his turf. He chases it away.

She said that, unlike their less-than-bright domestic cousins, wild turkeys are keenly aware of their surroundings and any threats to their safety. But, like many animals, they don't grasp the concept of traffic, and he is at high risk of being run over by a passing car or truck.

He frequently walks in the street and thus far motorists have been able to avoid striking him. Not that he moves out of the way,



## “Kevin’s a rock star.”

– Animal Control Officer Deborah Monde

mind you. He expects them to change their route.

Kevin is no fan of Monde. Whenever he spots her he beats a hasty retreat.

“He dislikes the mail truck and we’ve seen him dislike some mail carriers,” Monde said. “When I show up, he runs. He knows me and he knows my vehicle. But I’ve seen him stand on the sidewalk and people walk or jog right by.”

A few Facebook followers have criticized her for not capturing him yet but she pointed out that she doesn’t want to risk hurting him. It’s a task that is much easier said than done.

“It’s not easy at all. They can fly, so it’s a three-dimensional type of capture,” she said.

Wild animal experts from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection have tried to corral Wethersfield’s traveling turkey without success. Their method is to use a large net with weights attached fired from an air cannon.

That works best in open spaces, not in parking lots or along the street where there are shrubs, utility poles and other obstructions. They don’t want to deploy the net in one of the two parking lots Kevin frequents near Maple and Spring because those weights could damage cars.

Monde strongly discourages members of the general public from taking matters into their own hands. Residents have been seen with nets, blankets, cardboard boxes and other devices unsuccessfully trying to capture the bird and move him to a safer place.

Wild turkeys are armed with sharp talons on their feet, pointed



Photos by George Savic

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Photos by George Savie

beaks and strong wings. Kevin is capable of seriously injuring anyone who messes with him.

"They have a defense mechanism and they will deploy it if they have to," she said.

One of the reasons he hangs out at the intersection of Spring and Maple is because local residents and people who work in the nearby office building feed him. Monde said he wouldn't spend so much time crossing the street if not for that.

She asks them to refrain. There is no shortage of natural food and she doesn't want him to lose his natural aversion to people.

"They're feeding him right there on the corner and that's just not safe. Last month we had 25 calls for service for Kevin," she said.

That's because people saw him standing in the road. So either Monde or a patrol officers is dispatched to shoo him back onto the safety of the grass.

Kevin disappeared for several days in early September, but has since

reappeared on the Broad Street Green and

nearby streets. That

includes Sept. 10 in the hours before the annual Richard M. Keane Foundation Family Picnic.

"Kevin was on the green today while they were setting up for the music," Judy Keane said.

He fled the scene when some excited children ran toward him and took refuge behind the nearby home of Fire Chief Rich Bailey.

Kimberly Bobin said Kevin is a moment of happiness that everyone needs in a world where the news is all about political discord, potential war with North Korea, racial divisions and hurricanes.

"I'm conflicted. He's become a town mascot but I'm worried he's going to become road kill," Eileen Washburn said.

Recent sightings indicate that Kevin has perhaps tired of the Maple/Spring intersection and now prefers the intersection of Main and Marsh streets.

Monde said that as long as he wanders around the green and Village Cemetery she will be delighted to leave him alone. She





just wants to keep him away from intersections with heavy traffic.

According to DEEP, few predators are able to catch wild turkeys. They have a well-developed

instinct for survival along with excellent eyesight and hearing. The department discourages people from feeding wild turkeys because it increases the

risk of diseases and reduces their survival instincts.

According to the website wild-lifeofct.com, wild turkeys can run as fast as 25 miles per hour and can fly short distances at 35 mph.

They roost in trees overnight. Males grow larger than females and mature at between 15 and 25 pounds. A dominant male will drive away all challengers and mate with as many females as possible. **WL**

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# Dine by the water

Putnam Park office building will open restaurant overlooking the river

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

Photos by Mark Jahne

This is the view diners will enjoy when River: A Waterfront Restaurant and Bar opens at Putnam Park.

Putnam Park has long been known as the tall stand-alone building by the Putnam Bridge that serves as office space to numerous tenants. Now it's also becoming a destination for fine dining with a spectacular view.

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Owners Chris and Martha Henney of Cromwell have long wanted to offer one or more dining options to attract people from the community to their property. The building opened in 1985 and is close to full occupancy.

They recalled with some bemusement that when they first proposed the project it met with significant opposition because it is so close to the Connecticut River. The public hearing had to be moved from town hall to the high school to handle the overflow crowd.

Parts of town tend to flood during major storms or the annual spring snow melt, including the nearby meadows. The Henneys were confident they would not have a problem because their edifice is 40 feet above the river's usual waterline.

"None of this ever flooded," Chris said with a smile.

They started this year by renovating the coffee shop and snack



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area in the main lobby into what is now called the Atrium Café and Bar. It is open to the public for breakfast, lunch and dinner and features a variety of entrees, sandwiches, salads, personal pizzas and other items.

Many of the foods come from farms and other suppliers in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The café is open until 9 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 10 p.m. on Friday. Saturday hours are 5-10 p.m. It is closed on Sundays.

They have already hosted plated dinners for trade events.

"We have a full bar. We have Friday happy hour," Martha said. "We want people to consider us as a real restaurant and not just a cafeteria in an office building."

"It's kind of a fun space," her husband added.

They hope to have evening entertainment and are already

Henneys promise excellent food but also want to keep the prices reasonable.

"We want to make it comfortable for families as well as business people," Martha said.

"We also have approval for another 128 seats," Chris said.

These will be placed on the ground along the riverbank. There is a separate grassy area where they can erect a large tent for weddings and other occasions.

It is common to see boats of all sizes on the water as well as bald eagles, ospreys, herons and other birds fly past. During this interview a crew team rowed by, watched from the shore by a young deer,

"Most people who come in here are shocked that we're this close to the river," Martha said.

The Henneys have hired an executive chef with extensive major hotel and other experience. The general theme will be Italian

**"We want to make  
it comfortable for  
families as well as  
business people."**

**—Martha Henney**

seeing people come from the far corners of Wethersfield and beyond to sample the fare. The couple's adult children Lizzie and Patrick are also involved in the business.

"This is really a family effort," Chris said.

But the Atrium Café and Bar is just a tasty appetizer for the real treat to come, a full-service eatery called River: A Waterfront Restaurant and Bar. It will feature 250 seats with a view of the nearby river and bridge including an outdoor deck that will be at a slightly lower level so that the patrons inside and out can all enjoy a clear view.

Already under construction as designed by Moser Pilon Nelson Architects of Wethersfield, there will be a U-shaped bar and an area of raised seating that can also serve as a stage for live music. The

cuisine, including wood-fired pizzas, but there will also be beef and seafood selections.

"When people come to the water, they expect to have seafood," Martha said.

The rest of the building is doing just fine at more than 90 percent occupancy. Prime Engineering will soon move into office space there.

"We have about 22 tenants," Martha said.

"Our main tenant is CBS, which is Xerox. We're planning on putting a Marriott Courtyard out in the front," Chris added.

The Henneys said town officials are working with them and have been helpful throughout the process. They had to convince a longtime tenant to relocate to another floor to clear space for the new restaurant, scheduled to open by the end of October. **WL**

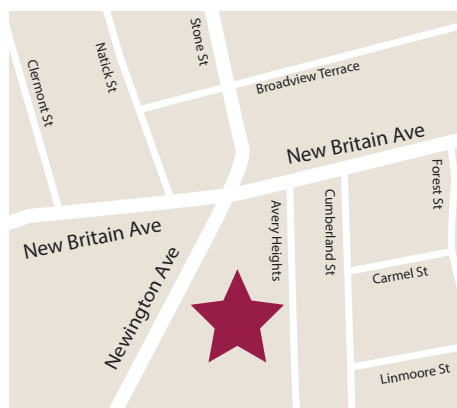


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Mail letters to 540 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070  
 or email Mark Jahne, at [mjahne@turleyct.com](mailto:mjahne@turleyct.com).



Lynne Offeri, Jessica Rivera and Janet Vassel stock a display case at the Wethersfield Library.

## Making new strides

Madres Latinas prepares to take the next step forward

by Mark Jahne

Editor

It was only a year or so ago when a group of mothers of Latin-American heritage decided to band together for their common good and to become more involved in the wider community. Madres Latinas was born.

They had an active start including a picnic at Mill Woods Park, cultural night at Temple Beth Torah, breakfast for the police and other activities. Leader Jessica Rivera found it increasingly difficult to balance the needs of work, family and this budding community organization, so she took a break to recharge her batteries.

"We took a six-month hiatus," she said. "I didn't go away, I just wanted to learn more skills. It really did light a fire for me."

Now she and Madres Latinas are back with renewed energy and the hope of greater progress. Rivera is working closely with her friend and advisor, Jeanine Baresi, a woman with international education experience who is also one of the volunteer leaders of the Time to Talk conversational English language program held at the Wethersfield Library.

Rivera was one of 11 adults who took the People Empowering People (PEP) parent leadership training program offered through the Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative. Baresi, WECC's outreach coordinator and a PEP facilitator certified by the University of Connecticut, was the instructor.

The Tri-Town YMCA hosted the three-month program. It was funded by the Liberty Bank Foundation and Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

PEP participants focused on values, communication skills, problem-solving skills, parenting skills, leadership skills, action planning and

community opportunity.

The two women agreed they work extremely well together.

"There wouldn't be a Madres Latinas if it wasn't for Jeanine," Rivera said.

The end result was that Rivera was able to develop new approaches and ideas for her group, which includes mothers of Puerto Rican, Central American and South American ethnicity. Other member mothers are white but have children of mixed race. All are welcome.

"We had a paint night at the farmers market. We had a nice turnout. We participated in National Night Out again," Baresi said.

They also sponsored a Latin-inspired story time. Children learned how to practice the tradition of Taino art. The Taino are a people indigenous to the Caribbean.

"We're going to use these [art-works] for some really nice projects inside the schools," Rivera said. "We're doing a lot of cool stuff. The biggest thing that we're sharing this year is Spanish language classes."

This initiative is being offered as part of the after-school program funded by the Richard M. Keane Foundation at Emerson-Williams School. The instructors are National Spanish Honor Society students and teachers from Wethersfield High School.

If the program proves successful they plan to expand it to the other elementary schools. The group is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, which started Sept. 15 and continues until Oct. 15.

Madres Latinas held its second annual Zumba event Sept. 23 and Rivera said it already has activities celebrate Latino culture. "The really nice part about Madres is sharing different cultures," Baresi said. **WL**



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# Promoting pedaling

Doctor teams up with others to offer cycling scholarship

by Allie Rivera  
Staff Writer

**D**r. Marc Eisen knows the importance of staying active and now he's using his resources to make sure that students throughout Wethersfield and beyond know that importance as well.

"I was a tennis player as a kid. I kind of grew up as an athlete," he said. "Getting kids involved in athletics is important for life lessons."

A doctor at Connecticut Ear, Nose and Throat on the Silas Deane Highway, Eisen has become an active supporter of the Connecticut Cycling Advancement Program in recent years after spending a great deal of time cycling on his own.

"It's a hobby that I've pursued with passion for at least 20 years," he said. "I've been supporting the CCAP in various ways through the years."

Based in Middletown, CCAP was founded in 2013 and has since



Photo courtesy of Sandrine Sebarg

Dr. Marc Eisen, left, of Connecticut Ear, Nose and Throat in Wethersfield, is helping to promote the Connecticut Cycling Advancement Program with the announcement of an upcoming scholarship.

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  - Ongoing efforts to increase special events in Old Wethersfield
  - Making Wethersfield more bike/pedestrian friendly
  - Adding Cove boat tours from our new town dock
  - Expanding fall tours and Holidays on Main
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  - Prospect of new developments on the Silas Deane Highway



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grown to host programs in towns throughout Connecticut.

"The mission of the organization is to give access and exposure to the sport of cycling to kids and families across the state of Connecticut," Executive Director Dave Hoyle said. "Before, if a kid wanted to get into the sport of cycling, there really was no way to do that."

CCAP partners with schools across the state, including Wethersfield High School, to allow any student to give it a try.

"The gateway are these events they host in the cafeterias," Eisen said. "They set up two trainers that are attached to a software program so you can see how hard you're pedaling. It kind of gets them interested in pedaling."

"We go into schools on a weekly basis to do outreach programs," Hoyle said. "For a lot of kids, it's the first time they've ever had the chance to even think about bike racing as a sport."

After drumming up interest with those events, CCAP helps schools start their own cycling clubs to allow students to continue learning about the sport. It helped launch the cycling club

at Wethersfield High School.

"We're growing pretty quickly," Hoyle said. "Our goal is to have programs in every town in Connecticut and we're very steadily making our way."

As of now, CCAP has 37 school programs with more than 500 children participating.

"Cycling is such a great sport because it connects with all types of kids," Hoyle said. "Once they get on that bike and they go practice with

other kids, they're going to become hooked."

To help further this mission, Eisen decided to begin offering a college scholarship to four cycling students.

"About a year ago we decided we wanted to do something interesting and exciting," he said. "Getting kids

involved in cycling is really what's generated my interest."

He hopes to use the programs created by CCAP within schools to host two separate competitions, each rewarding one male and one female student.

"One is to reward the students who are the strongest cyclers and one is to reward the students who are most interested," he said.

Using the stationary trainers, Eisen plans to have students compete

multiple ways to get into it," he said. "It's a sport that kids tend not to have a lot of exposure to as a competition, but it's a sport you can also do for a lifetime."

Hoyle was thrilled to learn about Eisen's desire to give back to CCAP in this way, but he wasn't shocked about being approached.

"My reaction was that I wasn't too surprised because Marc loves to do great things that help the community," he said.

Both men said they hope this scholarship opportunity, as well as CCAP's programs in general, will help younger students take an interest in a sport with which they may not be already familiar.

"If they're a traditional sports player, it's got huge benefits, but if they typically tend to shy away from sports, they'll still be able to get so much out of it," Hoyle said. "It's a true gift. They will absolutely love it." **WL**

To learn more about the Connecticut Cycling Advancement Program, or to learn how to get programs into a school, visit [ctcyclingadvancement.org](http://ctcyclingadvancement.org).

## "Getting kids involved in cycling is really what's generated my interest."

—Dr. Marc Eisen

throughout the academic year, with the fastest male and fastest female entrants possibly earning a \$500 scholarship, dependent upon overall interest. Additionally, he plans to host an essay competition for cycling students to demonstrate their commitment and passion for the sport.

"It's a great sport and there are

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# Helping families

WECC strives to make it easy to access community resources

by Mark Jahne  
Editor



Courtesy photo

**W**ethersfield offers a wealth of information and resources for families with young children. But until now that required a coordinated search because it was scattered in various places.

That search is now much easier thanks to the newly developed website

wethersfieldchildhood.com created by the Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative. They're calling it the virtual family resource center.

Topics covered include: pre-schools, day care providers, pediatric physicians and dentists, public schools, kindergarten readiness, Wethersfield Library, Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center, Tri-Town YMCA, prenatal health resources, Central

Connecticut Health District, parks and recreation, music and art, meeting other parents, sports leagues, faith-based organizations, social and youth services, housing, food assistance and a calendar of activities.

With few exceptions, all of the photos on the website are of local children. WECC also has a Facebook page.

"Millennial parents get a lot of their information from Facebook and

websites," Kimberly Bobin said.

She is employed part time by the town Department of Youth and Social Services as its early childhood coordinator. She credited Martha Conneely with helping her to develop the new virtual family resource center.

A translation feature allows users to view the content in more than 100 languages including Albanian, Bosnian, Croatian, Haitian Creole,



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WECC's goals include making sure that all children in town have improved access to early care and education programs that make them ready for school. Another is for families to have improved access to maternal and early childhood health care and the third is to reduce barriers that prevent families from becoming involved in the wider community.

The Wethersfield Early Childhood Collaborative is a diverse group that advocates for this town's young children. Participants include, but are not limited to, town government, parents, Wethersfield Public Schools, Tri-Town YMCA, Central Connecticut Health District, Wethersfield Library and the Richard M. Keane Foundation.

"People wanted one place to find information," Bobin said. "I think we're doing a pretty good job in reaching people in multiple ways. What I'm finding is what parents don't know."

She listed the Mikey's Place handicapped-accessible playground as one such example. Another is the availability of preschool scholarships.

"That's where you go to meet families," Bobin said of the playground.

She also wants residents to know about Family Place, a program offered from 6-7:30 p.m. Mondays at the Wethersfield Library. It's a parent-child workshop geared toward children from birth to 3 that features stimulation, education and fun combined with resource professionals who



**"All the research shows that when you work with children early that's going to benefit them in their lives long term."**

**-Kathy Bagley**

can answer questions and provide resources on a wide variety of topics.

Kathy Bagley, director of the department, said they worked with a website designer to pull together all of the different information. Some of it helps people get answers to simple questions, such as how to register their child for kindergarten.

"One of WECC's goals was to get this virtual resource center out there," she added. "There's a lot that goes on

in town, but it was scattered."

"We worked with the designer to make sure that it was mobile friendly," Bobin said. "We spend time doing outreach, too."

Bagley is pleased that other departments of town government are referring child-related matters to Bobin. Printed copies of the virtual family resource center are available for families that do not have computers or Internet access.

Bagley emphasized that town

government is not creating anything new or spending money on any new programs or services related to WECC. That includes the website, which is funded by WECC money.

She co-chairs WECC with parent representative Mary Kay Jensen.

The collaborative started with a grant from the [William Caspar] Graustein Memorial Fund channeled through the Wethersfield Public Schools, Bagley said. The 10-year grant funded the part-time position now held by Bobin and the town and district picked up the cost of her job now that the grant has expired.

"All the research shows that when you work with children early that's going to benefit them in their lives long term," Bagley said.

Earlier this year the collaborative offered a training and leadership program called Parents Empowering Parents to 11 people who all completed the program. It is now piloting a kindergarten transition program for children who did not have a preschool experience.

The town recently was the recipient of a three-year grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. This will cover the areas of school readiness and early childhood resources.

WECC will hold its annual meeting at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 23 at the Pitkin Community Center. The public is welcome to attend. **WL**

*To learn more call 860-721-2885 or email [kimberly.bobin@wethersfieldct.gov](mailto:kimberly.bobin@wethersfieldct.gov). WECC meets at 4:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month (except December) at the public library.*

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# Promoting a better world

Wethersfield CommUnity for the Resistance states its case

by Mark Jahne  
Editor

In an era when racial and political divisions, angry speech, civic discord and the inability of people to work together for a common cause seem to be the norm, a grassroots movement is slowly growing in town.

Signs announcing the formation of Wethersfield CommUnity for the Resistance are appearing on the lawns of homes in various neighborhoods. The black signs feature white lettering in English, Spanish and Arabic.

The group is led by several young women who have been energized by events of the past year. Kaci White, Jessica K. Martin and Kelly De La Cruz met with Wethersfield LIFE to talk about their efforts. Fellow organizer Farah Evenson, who was out of state on vacation, joined

Photo by Lisa Brisson

Wethersfield CommUnity For the Resistance co-founders Kelly De La Cruz, Jessica K. Martin and Kaci White, from left, participate in an interview with fellow member Farah Evenson on Skype.



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the conversation via Skype.

"We came together in January after the Women's March on Washington," White said. "We began thinking about positive ways to make changes at all levels of government. A lot of people are frustrated with the national picture."

She added that the emphasis is on promoting the values of racial and ethnic diversity, economic development and a greater sense of community. The lawn signs speak to the exclusionary rhetoric they oppose.

"This group represents a wide cross-section of political affiliations. We are pro-inclusion," Martin said.

White said they want to become a larger voice in the community. One small thing everyone can do is establish their homes as welcoming places, she added.

"The group provides a venue for us to feel like we're connected," De La Cruz said.

She is pleased that everything about it has a positive tone. One person who saw the sign in her yard

thanked her for her efforts.

"People leave Post-It notes on my sign thanking me for putting it out there," Martin added. "One of the things I love about this group is the cross section of passions."

"I've always been very passionate when it comes to helping others. This group has given me an outlet to channel that energy," Evenson said.

She added that there are always ways to help a good town improve. Part of that is spreading a little bit of love.

White has found that including the words "no matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor" on the signs has helped spark conversations. Forming the group also gave these women the opportunity to learn about and then explain local government to others.

"It shouldn't feel remarkable to have Arabic writing," she said.

All four women encourage anyone who sees one of their signs to walk up to the home and initiate a conversation.

*No importa de dónde eres,  
estamos contentos que seas  
nuestro vecino.*

No matter where you are  
from, we're glad you're  
our neighbor.

لا يهم اين ولدتم، و لكننا  
سعداء انكم جيراننا.

Wethersfield CommUnity for the Resistance

This sign conveys a message of friendship and acceptance on behalf of the grassroots organization Wethersfield CommUnity for the Resistance.

One of their recent activities was a barbecue at which they explained how to register to vote. In the planning stages is a "Politics 101" workshop to help residents understand how govern-

ment functions.

Some of the members have utilized this newfound commitment to seek volunteer positions on the many town boards and commissions. They also roll up their sleeves

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**“This group represents a wide cross-section of political affiliations. We are pro-inclusion.”**

**—Jessica K. Martin**

to participate in worthwhile causes.

“We did the cove cleanup back in May,” De La Cruz said.

They also attended the public hearing regarding the proposed removal of trees along the town line near Brainard Airport in Hartford. The group participated in the recent Source to the Sea cleanup of the Connecticut River.

“We’re hoping to create some community gardens,” White said.

They also conducted a food drive as well as collected and donated back to school supplies for needy children.

She added that people need to know their voices can be heard,

especially at the local level. She recently spoke at a meeting of the Town Council.

“I think that we can effect real change,” White said. “Visibility is the first step.”

Issues they have focused upon thus far include education, inclusion, health care, social justice, the environment, stewardship and immigration. De La Cruz said they have spoken with state legislators about these issues and also called to thank them when legislation they favor is adopted.

“They affect every level of government. Nothing will really change until it comes from the group up,” Evenson said.



Kelly De La Cruz



Kaci White



Jessica K. Martin

Photos by Lisa Brisson

De La Cruz said Wethersfield CommUnity for the Resistance has 138 members, all of whom live in town. They enjoy sharing experiences with one another. The leadership is all female right now but men are welcome to participate.

White wants to create a dialogue that will keep the community safe. As the group grows, they want to extend the welcome mat to bring aboard a more racially and otherwise diverse membership. **WL**

Anyone interested in learning more about Wethersfield CommUnity for the Resistance can email [wethersfieldu4resistance@gmail.com](mailto:wethersfieldu4resistance@gmail.com).

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Wendy Fish-Lawrence & David Lawrence, Artistic Directors





# October *calendar*

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**1 Car Show**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Cove Park, 860-712-8716

**3 Flu Clinic**, 9 a.m. to noon, Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., 860-721-2822 or ccthd.org

**4 Bud & Blossom Garden Club**, 6:30 p.m., Pitkin Community Center, Room S-1, 30 Greenfield St.

**7 Old Wethersfield Craft Fair**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Cove Park, 860-559-5560 or oldwethersfieldcraftfair.com

**Harvest Festival**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Heirloom Market at Comstock Ferre, 263 Main St., 860-257-2790 or heirloommkt.com

**Finding Happiness: The Art of Being Happy**, 2 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

**10 Author Margaret Webster**, 6:30 p.m., Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

**12 Burying Ground Tour**, 1 p.m., meet at the First Church parking lot, 860-529-7656 or wethersfieldhistory.org, also 10 a.m. Oct. 14

**Flu Clinic**, 2:30-6 p.m., Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., 860-721-2822 or ccthd.org

**Meet Alexander Hamilton**, 6:30 p.m., Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum, 211 Main St., 860-529-0612 or webb-deane-stevens.org

**13 Teen Yoga**, 2:30 p.m., for grades 7-12, registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

**14 WHS Safe Grad Clothing Drive**, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Silas Deane Middle School, 551 Silas Deane Highway, 860-508-6999 or 860-529-3462

**Saturday Cinema: "Arrival,"** 1:30 p.m., Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

**150 Prospect Coffeehouse**, 6:30 p.m., Wethersfield United Methodist Church, 150 Prospect St., 860-614-5158 or tanjam@comcast.net

**15 Mikey's Place 5K Run & Walk**, 11 a.m., Garden Street, mikeysplace.org

**17 An Evening with Abigail Adams**, 6:30 p.m., Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811

**18 Teen Halloween Makeup Day**, 2:30 p.m., for grades 7-12, registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

**GFWC Newington/ Wethersfield Women's Club Private Shopping Party**, 6 p.m., Lily Madison Consignment Boutique, 53 New Britain Ave., Rocky Hill

**20 Lantern Light Tours**, 6:30-8 p.m., Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main St., 860-529-7656 or wethersfieldhistory.org, also Oct. 21

**23 Drug Awareness Program sponsored by Wethersfield-Rocky Hill Elks Lodge 2308**, 7 p.m., Rocky Hill Community Center, 761 Old Main St., 860-257-8177

**24 Computer Classes: Freegal & RBDigital**, 10:30 a.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

**GFWC Newington/ Wethersfield Woman's Club**, 6 p.m., Newington Rapid Recovery Center, 240 Church St., 860-667-2256

*Is your club, community organization, school or house of worship holding an event open to the general public? If so, please send us the details for inclusion in our calendar. Email your events to Mark Jahne at [mjahne@turleyct.com](mailto:mjahne@turleyct.com) or mail them to Turley CT Community Publications, 540 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, CT 06070.*



# Events

## spotlight

### Classical Guitar Recital

Sept. 30, 2 p.m.

Wethersfield Library

515 Silas Deane Highway

860-257-2811 or [wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org)

Classical guitarist Francesco Barone returns with a recital of pieces that draws influence from the rich

musical tradition of American jazz and popular styles. The program features the music of Andrew York (an American guitarist and composer), Nikita Koshkin (a Russian composer who draws influence from American jazz) and Alexandre Tansman (a Polish composer who incorporated jazz harmonies into his work). Registration is suggested because space is limited.

### Car Show

Oct. 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cove Park

860-712-8716

The Over the Hill Gang Connecticut Eastern Chapter will host its seventh annual display of antique and classic cars. Money raised will go to the Wethersfield Police Cadets program. Admission is free for spectators and car owners may exhibit their vehicles for a \$10 entry fee. Food and music will also be part of the festivities.

### Old Wethersfield Craft Fair

Oct. 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cove Park

860-559-5560 or

[oldwethersfieldcraftfair.com](http://oldwethersfieldcraftfair.com)

This event that benefits the Wethersfield Historical Society returns for its 36th year. There will be more than 100 juried artisans displaying their handmade wares for sale. Half a dozen food vendors will also be on hand and the historical society will add to that with a bake sale and attic treasures booth. Other



Old Wethersfield Craft Fair

Courtesy photo

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attractions include alpacas and face painting. Admission is \$6 and children under 12 get in free.

### Broadway Now

Sept. 30, 8 p.m.

*Sacred Heart Church hall*

*56 Hartford Ave.*

860-595-2350 or

[overthemoonct@gmail.com](mailto:overthemoonct@gmail.com)

The new Over the Moon Theatre Company of Wethersfield celebrates its launch with a concert filled with the latest Broadway hits. "Broadway Now" is an evening of contemporary musical theater featuring a talented cast of local performers presenting songs from the hottest shows. Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$22 for students and senior citizens. They can be purchased in advance or at the door.

### Harvest Festival

Oct. 7, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

*Heirloom Market at Comstock*

*Ferre, 263 Main St.*

860-257-2790 or [heirloommkt.com](http://heirloommkt.com)

The second annual Harvest Festival will feature local vendors and artisans, child-friendly activities, live music, hundreds of pumpkins for carving and painting, an outdoor barbecue as well as from-scratch baked pies and more.

### Can You Really Choose To Be Happy?

Oct. 7, 2 p.m.

*Wethersfield Library*

*515 Silas Deane Highway*

860-257-2811 or

[wethersfieldlibrary.org](http://wethersfieldlibrary.org)

Licensed counselor and life coach Lucinda Testo presents a workshop at which participants will learn proven strategies to become happier people and move their lives forward by discovering how to live with joy every day. She is the founder of Unlimited You LLC, a private therapy practice located in town. Registration is recommended.



Courtesy photo

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**Meet Alexander Hamilton**

Oct. 12, 6:30 p.m.

*Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum**211 Main St.**860-529-0612 or**webb-deane-stevens.org*

Alexander Hamilton will visit the former Webb home, now part of the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum, for a presentation on Hamilton's life and legacy in the Webb Barn. The free event will be preceded by a wine reception by donation. Hamilton will be portrayed in period clothing by veteran re-enactor Ian Rose as part of the WDS Fall Lecture Series.

**Clothing Drive**

Oct. 14, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*Silas Deane Middle School**551 Silas Deane Highway*

Clean and gently used contributions of clothing and other items are being sought to help fund the annual safe graduation party for the Wethersfield High School Class

of 2018. Other desired items include bedding, curtains, towels, blankets, table linens, shoes, belts, ties, hats, handbags and hard plastic toys. For more information email [ahsaharek@cox.net](mailto:ahsaharek@cox.net) or [tjinterian@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tjinterian@sbcglobal.net).

**Mikey's Place 5K Run & Walk**

October 15, 11 a.m.

*Garden Street**mikeysplace.org*

This 19th annual event will benefit the wheelchair-accessible playground built in memory of Michael James Daversa. This year's participants will also be helping to continue a scholarship fund with Wethersfield Dollars for Scholars. There is an entry fee but the fee will be waived for any entrant who raises a minimum of \$20 in pledges. Registration will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Hanmer School gym. Pledge forms are available at Village Pizza, Aroma Bistro, Premier Cleaners,

**Meet Alexander Hamilton**

Courtesy photo

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### Chili & Rice & Beans Cook-Off

Oct. 15, 5 p.m.

*St. James' Episcopal Church*  
2584 Main St. Glastonbury  
860-529-6825

Trinity Episcopal Church of Wethersfield is joining forces with St. James for this event. Proceeds will benefit St. Vincent's Center for Handicapped Children near Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$3 for children ages 3-12. Pay at the door.

### An Evening with Abigail Adams

Oct. 17, 6:30 p.m.

*Wethersfield Library*  
515 Silas Deane Highway  
860-257-2811

The library will host Carol Bielefeld as she portrays Abigail Adams in

period costume. She was known as "Miss Adorable" to her husband John Adams, the second president of the United States. This lively portrayal of Abigail depicts how in her husband's absence she managed the farm, raised their children, ran a business, bought land and invested the family's money.

### Lantern Light Tours

Oct. 20-21, 6:30-8 p.m.

*Keeney Memorial Cultural Center*

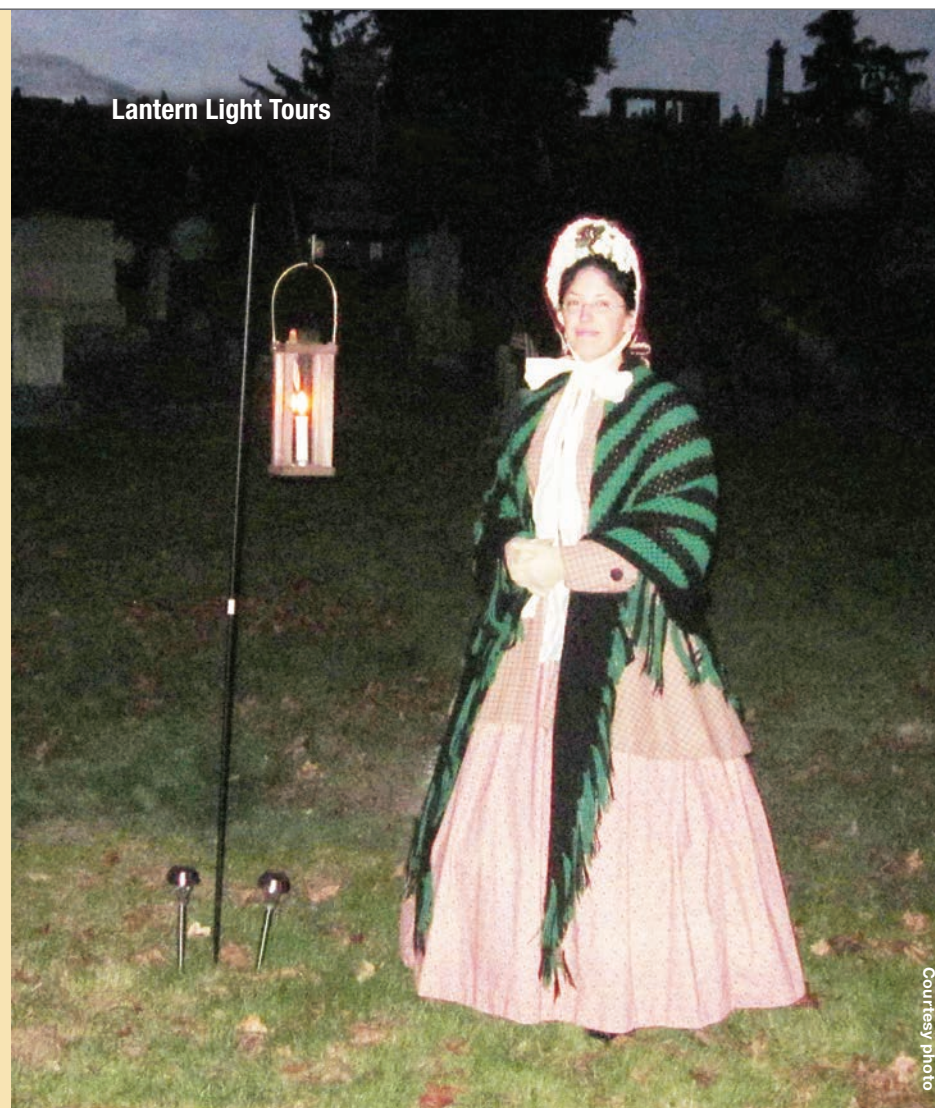
200 Main St.

860-529-7656 or

[wethersfieldhistory.org](http://wethersfieldhistory.org)

The Wethersfield Historical Society presents hour-long tours that will leave every 15 minutes. Timed tickets priced at \$20 are sold prior to the event, with remaining tickets at the door, if available. They can be purchased at the Old Academy at 150 Main St. or on the website. These tours are appropriate for age 13 and older and this year's theme is "Forgotten Residents of Wethersfield."

### Lantern Light Tours



Courtesy photo

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LIFE



# Slice of LIFE

photos by Lisa Brisson



Thousands of visitors converged on the Broad Street Green Sept. 16 to celebrate all that is Wethersfield during the 33rd Annual Cornfest presented by the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce. There was plenty of food and children enjoyed the Innovative Inflatables fun zone of bouncy delights.



## Cornfest thrills once again

**1.** Abigail Webb, 3, enjoys her UNICO of Wethersfield pizza slice, courtesy of Village Pizza. **2.** Michael Stefano, Diane Fitzpatrick and Lisa Stefano of Wethersfield High School's Safe Grad program raise funds for the post-graduation celebration held each year. **3.** Kendall Salemi, 11 months, has fun having her photo taken in the corn on the cob photo display. **4.** The guys at UNICO of Wethersfield were busy dishing out slices of pizza all day. **5.** Phil Civitello and Cristina Harris of the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce work in tandem to stuff the bags of freshly popped kettle corn that the chamber sells at its tent. **6.** Bre Salerno of Live Right Wellness Studio teaches a barre class at this year's Cornfest. **7.** Alison Schackner, 10, and Emma Applebaum, 9, battle it out in the Innovative Inflatables fun zone. **8.** Gabby Lozada, 7, shows off her Hula Hoop skills by swinging dual hoops. **9.** Sarah Luscina, Tim Boardman, Carolyn Vallieres and Jackie Konopka, all Friends of the Wethersfield Public Library, were on hand to help with the library's used book sale tent. **10.** Abigail Knowles, 2, gets a ride on a pony. **11.** Anderson Farm provided the butter and sugar corn on the cob. **12.** Cornfest Chairman Todd Lamore cooks up more kettle corn at the chamber tent. **13.** Villari's Martial Arts Center students put on a display of their skills. **14.** Members of the Wethersfield High School cheerleading squad entertain the crowd. **15.** Joseph Marrero II and Debra Raymond, chamber board members, keep their eyes on the boiling pot of Anderson Farm corn on the cob. **16.** Leslie Civitello, executive director of the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce, helps out at the chamber tent with President Alana DiMarco.







# People notes

Courtesy photos

**Robin Casioppo** was promoted at Fuss & O'Neill, Inc., a consulting engineering firm. She advances from environmental scientist to scientist III.

**John Strycharz** and **Jiachen Zhao** earned high honors at Watkinson School in Hartford.

**Rachel Lombardi** graduated summa cum laude from Roger Williams University with a B.A. degree in journalism.

**Kassandrah Banks** and **Gary Schroeder** were named to the Little East Conference All-Academic Team at Eastern Connecticut State University. They are members of the track and field team.

**Marybeth Mull** is a winner of a

National Association of Oil and Energy Service Professionals 2017 Dave Nelsen Scholarship.

**Kevin Smith** was named to the dean's list at Seton Hall University.

**Andrew Lucibella** was named to the dean's list at Loyola University-Maryland.

**Jessica Cebelius** was among 12 biology students from Eastern Connecticut State University who traveled to the Bahamas to study the island's tropical biology.

**Carling Walsh** was named to the dean's list at St. Lawrence University.

**Keli Anderson** was named to the dean's list at the University of New Hampshire.

The following residents graduated from Tunxis Community College:

**Marena Connors**, certificate in dental assisting; **Izabela Dawidziuk**, A.S. degree in business administration; **Amanda Fabrizi**, A.S. degree in general studies; **Margaret Skelly**, A.S. degree and certificate in early childhood education and **Justin Valdes**, A.S. degree in general studies.

**Kassandrah Banks**, **Alexandria Casertano**, **James Dignoti**, **Rachel DiNatalie**, **Patrick Drake**, **Andrew Falce**, **Justin Jensen**, **James Malizia**,

**Jamie Piscitello**, **Christopher Shimwell**, **Nicole Silva**, **Kelsey Sullivan**, **Shane Sullivan**, **Molly Underwood-Scherban**, **Max Walter**, **Samantha Walter** and



Robin Casioppo

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**Cody N. Guarnieri '09**  
Political Science Major  
Brown, Paindiris & Scott, LLP

"The practice of law requires a love of reading and a passion for critical inquiry and problem solving. The work ethic I developed and critical thinking skills I learned at Eastern set the stage for my path to law school and a successful law practice."



**Clayton Pollock '07**  
Biology Major | National Park Service  
Biologist | U.S. Virgin Islands

"I wouldn't be where I am today without the foundation I received from Eastern's Biology Department. I will never forget my study abroad experiences in Belize and San Salvador Island; those opportunities helped to define my career aspirations and provided a great deal of practical experience."



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**Katherine Patnaude**

**Joseph Zocco** was named to the dean's list at Eastern Connecticut State University.

**Vanessa Cunha, Matthew Ferris and Brianna Gillette** were named to the dean's list at Lasell College.

**Katherine Patnaude** was reappointed to serve as a member of the Advisory Council of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants, representing its Educational Trust Fund as its chairman. She is an audit manager

with PKF O'Connor Davies LLP in Wethersfield.

**Marc Howes** earned a bachelor of arts degree in media studies – film and television from Marist College.

**Alexander Harris** earned a bachelor of science degree in computer science from Marist College.

**Alexander Harris and Daniel Schroeder** were named to the dean's list at Marist College.

**Antonia Bremmer** received the Kendall C. Scott Criminal Justice Scholarship from the Tunxis Community College Foundation.

**Anthony Bruno, Kristen Ciampi, Rosmarie Faienza, Kelly Hoisl, Analissa Mandile, Jacob Skowronek, Meaghan Szilagyi and Jessica Thibeault** were named to the dean's list at the University of Rhode Island.

**Diana Barriga** earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Hartford.

**Angela Bell** earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Hartford.

**Michael Gomez-Hixson** earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Hartford.

**Jude Nwaogu** earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing from the University of Hartford.

**Alexander Ranniello** earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of Hartford.

**Gabriela Zglejc** earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing from the University of Hartford.

**Alexander Tremblay** earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Hartford.

**Gina Lanzano, Daniel Murray, Katelyn Rutty and Luke Surawski** were named to the president's list at Western New England University.

**Kelly Hoisl** earned a bachelor of science degree in kinesiology, cum laude, from the University of Rhode Island.

**Christa Allard, Ashley Arriaga, Sarah Cusano, Mirela Dautovic, Deena DePaolis, Zoryana Dingfelder, Anne Fern, Jonathan**

**Gwara, David Huffman, Edina Ibrahimovic, Zachary Leveton, Jade Lubniewski, Jennifer Madley, Aimee Marone, Alexandra Pace, Chrissy Pikos, Debbie Plourde, Jesline Rosario, Andre Santiago, Chris Stek, Janet Tedone, Dzenana Uvalic, Maria Valentino, Ashley Wengzn, Brandie Williams and Marlena Wlazniak** were named to the dean's list at Goodwin College.

**Jacqueline Kendrick, Geoffrey Skowronek and Alaina Kendrick** were named to the dean's list at Assumption College.

**Justin Oliveri** was named to the dean's list at Western New England University.

**Daniel Murray** graduated from Western New England University.

**Carly Nixon, Connor Jones and Rachel Sharp** were named to the dean's list at the University of Delaware.

**Olivia Hurley** graduated cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in public communication from the University of Vermont.

**Jacob Zapatka** was named to the dean's list with high honors at Nichols College. He also graduated

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Saturday, November 11th  
Veterans Day Program

Friday, November 24th  
Santa Visits & Behind the Scene Tours

Saturday, December 2nd  
Santa Visits

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cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in sport management.

**Michael Wolf** was named to the dean's at Champlain College.

**Lauren Kelly** graduated from Siena College.

**Alexandra deMoncada** earned a master of science degree in nursing from Johns Hopkins University. She will be working in the cardiac intensive care unit at Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C.

**Christina DeAngelo** was named to the dean's list at Saint Joseph's University.

**Sarah Bean** of the University of Tampa, **Veronica Catricala** of Hofstra University, **Kacey Friedman** of the University of Hartford, **Darceca Garib** of Sacred Heart University, **Paige McDunnah** of Pennsylvania State University, **Kamila Orzechowski** of the University of Saint Joseph, **Abby Phillips** of Central Connecticut State University

and **Rongwei Tan** of the University of Connecticut were awarded Robert T. Kenney Scholarships from the American Savings Foundation.

**Raymond Lanzano**, a freshman at Springfield College, was named the first recipient of the Reginald Anderson Caregiver Scholarship awarded by the Connecticut Brain Tumor Alliance.

**Joel DiLoreto** earned a master of public administration degree from the graduate school of the University of Connecticut.

**Ashley Gioia** and **Jason Lundberg**, both of Glastonbury, are engaged to be married. Gioia is the daughter of Gilbert Gioia and Lisa Nyland of Wethersfield. Lundberg is the son of Jon and Michele Lundberg of East Hartford. Gioia graduated cum laude from Post University and is employed as an analyst at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft. Lundberg is employed by the Hockanum Valley Community Council. An October 2018 wedding is planned. **WL**



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# Picnic on the Green

Photos by Mark Jahne



Benjamin Musco is clearly a big fan of his father.



The Richard M. Keane Foundation sponsored its annual family picnic on the Broad Street Green Sept. 10. Hundreds of people attended to enjoy food, socialization and live music.

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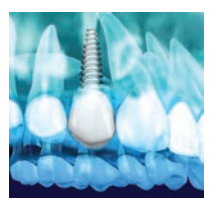
## Are Dental Implants Right For You?

Replacing teeth with dental implants can be an excellent option for patients to restore lost function and recreate a great-looking smile for those that have suffered from tooth loss. Implants are titanium posts inserted into the jawbone to replace the root portion of a missing tooth, which fuse with the bone, keeping it living and stimulated and your face youthfully supported. Dental implants serve as a foundation for highly natural-looking and functional tooth replacements, and can be used to replace a single tooth up to a full set of top and bottom teeth, now one of Dr. Michalski's top procedures, the "All on 4" fixed implant bridge. This innovative concept uses as few as four implants to replace a full arch of teeth. Because he is also a cosmetic dentist, Dr. Michalski has the unique ability to plan both the surgery and the final smile design. The procedure replaces the problem teeth and the IV sedation he offers creates a relaxed experience.

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Dr. Michalski is accepting new patients. Appointments for evaluations and consultations are available on weekdays and may be made by calling 860-563-4544, or visiting the website [www.michalskidmd.com](http://www.michalskidmd.com)

the best bone structure and choose the ideal implant placement sites for the patient. "Through this procedure we take implant dentistry a step above," says Dr. Michalski. "We take teeth out and the same day put teeth in. We provide our patients with IV sedation and they wake up with new teeth."



As one of his advanced procedures is dental implants, Dr. Michalski is a leader in his field. He has attained Diplomate status in the International College of Oral Implantology, the highest honor in the field. He is a Misch Fellow, a graduate of numerous post doctorate training curriculums and has trained and studied with the best implant surgeons in the world.

"I am able to show people what their dental implant options are and change their lives. We use art and science to take a patient from a smile they dislike to one they love by creating their perfect smile," explains Dr. Michalski.



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# News roundup

*Courtesy photos*

## T. William Knapp dies

Former police chief T. William Knapp died Sept. 1. A 1954 graduate of Wethersfield High School, he served in the U.S. Army's 1st Infantry Division, where he trained Army dogs. He attended Hillyer College, the University of Hartford and the University of Virginia.

Knapp became a Wethersfield police officer in 1958 and served as chief from 1974-1989. He was appointed by Gov. William O'Neill as executive director of the state Police Officer Standards and Training Council and filled that position until retiring in 2003.

He also served for 19 years as the executive director and secretary of the Police Association of Connecticut. He was president of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association and the Wethersfield Police Benevolent Association, Wethersfield Firefighters

Association, Wethersfield Game Club and secretary of the state Board of Firearms Permit Examiners.

He was also a charter member of the Connecticut Law Enforcement Memorial in Meriden and had a passion for hunting, fishing, firearms and shooting. A Son of the American Revolution and a 32nd Degree Freemason, he was also a member of the Wethersfield/Rocky Hill Lodge 2308 BPOE (Elks).

## Girl Scouts raise money

Girl Scout Junior Troop 10216 had a lemonade stand Sept. 9 to raise money for the victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. The girls raised \$1,366 which was split between the JJ Watt Foundation in Houston and the South Florida Wildlife Center in Ft. Lauderdale.



## Women holding fundraiser

The GFWC Newington-Wethersfield Women's Club is collecting soft goods such as clothing, bedding, linens, shoes and purses for its Savers Donation Fundraiser. Proceeds will benefit the club's community programs.

No donation is too small and they will gladly come pick it up. For more information call Donna at 860-986-9707 or Pat at 860-310-7015.

## John Saccente dies

John Saccente, a longtime security guard at Wethersfield High School fondly known as "Pops" to the students, died Sept. 15, the date of his 91st birthday. He was the first person visitors met at the main entrance to the school and he greeted everyone with kind words and a smile.

The longtime resident served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

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Moms collect school supplies

He spent more than four decades working for the Arrow Hart Co., served as a supernumerary officer with the Newington Police Department and then spent 28 years at WHS.

### Moms collect school supplies

The MOMS Club of Wethersfield collected school supplies to donate to the town Department of Social and Youth Services for its annual school supplies drive. Mary Ann Kelley, 2, poses with a vehicle stuffed with more than \$1,000 in school supplies.

### Academy hosts art competition

The Wethersfield Academy for the Arts is holding its biennial Fine Art Competition and Exhibition from Oct. 7-21. Artists are invited to submit their new work for this juried exhibition.

The competition will be juried by Douglas Hyland, director emeritus of the New Britain Museum of American Art. Awards will be given in several categories.

### Workshops for women offered

"Living well is the best revenge" is the theme of the My Avenging Angel workshops being offered Oct. 7 and 14 by Susan Omilian. They are designed to provide a critical next step for women to break permanently out of the cycle of violence and thrive after domestic abuse.

Sponsored by the Hartford Hospital Domestic Violence Prevention Program and supported by the Connecticut Alliance for Victims of Violence and Their Families and the Petit Family Foundation, admission is free. Participants should plan to attend both sessions.

The Saturday workshop sessions will held from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Hartford Healthcare Building, 1290 Silas Deane Highway. Advance registration is required, call the Hartford Hospital Health Referral Service at 860-545-1888. **WL**



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# Physician publishes first novel

Book combines a tale of medicine, mystery and art

by Mara Dresner  
Staff Writer

**D**r. Michael Hallisey is known for saving lives in his job as an endovascular surgeon and interventional radiologist. But he takes a few in his new career as a fiction author in his debut novel, "The Last Prophet," which combines several of his passions: medicine, the spy genre and the art world.

Although the Wethersfield resident has written many medical pieces, creating fiction was a whole new adventure for "The Last Prophet," and he admits he struggled with the process. While medicine seems a world apart from fiction, Hallisey was an English major at the College of the Holy Cross, where he met Helen Whall, who assisted him with the book.

"When he was an undergraduate at Holy Cross, Mike Hallisey took my Shakespeare course. He also audited an honors seminar on drama for pre-medical students and then asked me to be a reader on his honors thesis, which was a collection of short stories," Whall, a professor emerita, said.

"Mike is a brilliant doctor and medical inventor. Over the years, I think he has approached writing with the same skill set. He studies the problem then looks for a creative solution," she added.

"And like any good doctor, he takes on consultants. I know he got feedback from many, many professional writers as he worked on 'The Last Prophet.' I was his Shakespeare consultant and advised him on things like point

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of view and narrative verb tenses. Dr. Hallisey's explosive, fast paced style, however, is all his own.

"I think 'The Last Prophet' is an amazing amalgam of thriller, historical novel and mystery. It's paced to pick up and put down, then eagerly pick up again. Mike also shares wonderful medical details as well as leading his reader to think about some big social issues."

Hallisey's interest in medicine dates back to childhood.

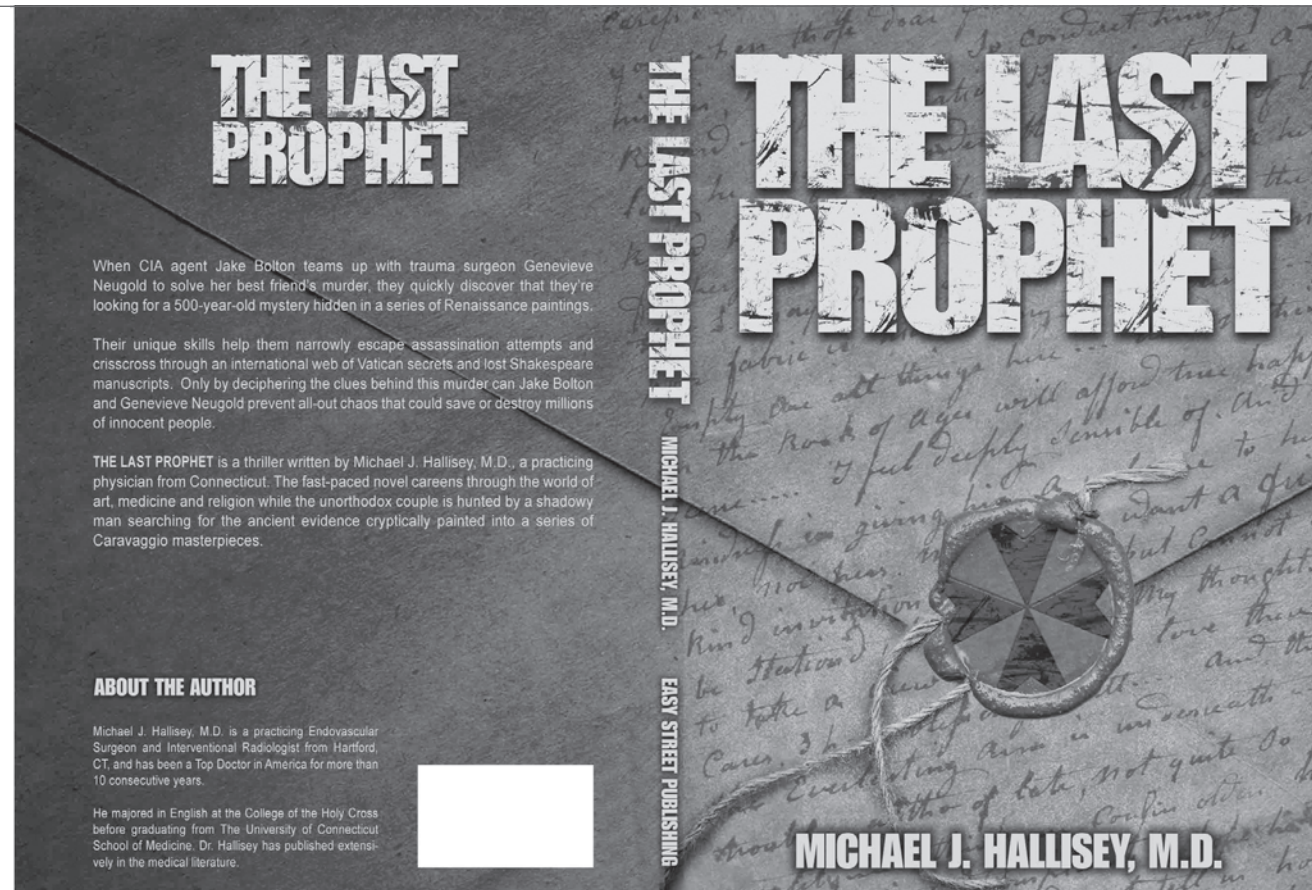
"At a very early age, yes, I was interested in medical school. My parents were not in a medical field. I became interested in medicine through my older brother, who is a veterinarian," he said.

"I started working at a very early age in a veterinary clinic. He would talk about medicine and that got me interested at the time," Hallisey, who grew up in Hartford, remembered.

At the same time, he always enjoyed English.

"I had really good teachers in high school and college and they really encouraged a lot of writing. They really made me enjoy writing and reading," he said.

While he liked his liberal arts classes, he also was looking down



the road.

"My dad used to say, 'You're not going to be able to get a job out of college,'" he recalled. So while he pursued a pre-med education, he also explored classes such as art history and English.

"The idea of a liberal arts education hit home with me. It's a lifelong

learning process. I've continued to be interested in all those areas of study."

He graduated in 1986 as valedictorian from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. After his surgical internship and radiology residency, he went on to a fellowship in cardiovascular and

interventional radiology at Alexandria Hospital in Virginia.

"In the mid-1980s, when I was going through medical school, the idea of treating patients less invasively was a hot area of study. Laparoscopy was in its infancy in the late '80s," he said.

"With interventional radiology,



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you're using imaging guidance to treat patients, such as balloon angioplasty. It was very stimulating to me. It's less invasive and you can see the patient get better immediately."

Chief of interventional radiology at Jefferson Radiology, he works at a number of hospitals in Connecticut and Massachusetts, including Hartford Hospital and Connecticut Children's Medical Center, and is an assistant clinical professor at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, a fellow of the American College of Radiology, a fellow of the Society of Interventional Radiology and assistant residency director at Hartford Hospital.

He has been a Top Doctor in America for more than 10 consecutive years and holds an appointment at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in the Center for Devices and Radiologic Health.

"I have my own patients. I see them in clinic, I follow up with them. I admit them to the hospital. It's a nice area in the medical field. We take care of the patients. We take care of their medical problems and we do it in a less invasive fashion," he said.

Hallisey has always made time to read fiction, counting David Baldacci, Dan Brown and Michael Connelly among his favorite authors.

"Their characters are fun and heroic and bouncing all over the world to save mankind and stop diseases. I love that genre; it's fun reading. My favorite is probably Steve Berry; he wrote 'The Amber Room.' I grew up on that genre, Ken Follett, 'Eye of the Needle'; Robert Ludlum and the Jason Bourne books.

"They're great thrillers. That's what made me say that it would be

fun to have a book tie medicine in with another interest, in this case art history."

Another book that had piqued his interest was written by a professor at Smith College, Jonathan Haar. "The Lost Painting" tied in the art world and the search for a piece by Caravaggio. Hallisey's book has a female trauma surgeon as the protagonist.

"That really represents what's happening in medicine," he said.

It took him six years to bring the self-published book to completion. After sketching out the story, he brought it to Whall to see what she thought. When she told him it was worth pursuing, he began writing

fit together."

Finding the time to write was a challenge.

"I don't sleep much. I work about 80 hours a week. I'd be writing into the night. I'd get up at 4:30 in the morning and write until 6:30," he said. "The most important part is the rewriting. It always needs to be rewritten to get it to sound better."

He'd often listen to Bruce Springsteen or Meatloaf while writing.

His book concerns a CIA agent who teams up with a trauma surgeon to solve her best friend's murder. They discover that they're looking for a 500-year-old mystery hidden in a series of Renaissance paintings.

**"I started building it chapter by chapter, based on where I thought the characters should be at certain places."**

**-Dr. Michael Hallisey**

in earnest.

"I did a synopsis. Then I started building it chapter by chapter, based on where I thought the characters should be at certain places. It took a lot of cutting. I needed somebody to bounce it off of. I needed someone objective to look at things," he said.

"I would give her a couple of chapters at a time. It needed a lot of work; I didn't know what I was doing. She helped me shape the ideas. She did some sophisticated editing on how a story should

Surviving assassination attempts and crisscrossing through an international web of Vatican secrets and lost Shakespeare manuscripts, they must decipher the clues behind the murder to prevent the chaos that could destroy millions of innocent people.

"It's a sophisticated book. It's not for everybody," Hallisey said. "It's not commercial, mindless fiction. It's got a lot of information, a lot of knowledge in it."

Writing fiction was quite

different from his medical writing.

"I've written a lot of papers and chapters and done academic presentations and that's much more formulaic; it's a much more scientific method. You present a hypothesis, the materials and methods you used, you present your results and conclusions," he said.

"It's much more rigid and less creative, although the research done requires some creativity," he said. "This kind of writing is more about the creativity, creating realistic characters and how would they act and react in a situation."

He enjoyed exploring the characters' lives and taking them from Hartford to Europe.

"That was really a lot of fun. I really enjoyed writing this because I didn't have to. I didn't feel the pressure. I wasn't under pressure I had to do it," he said.

He's done a number of talks and book signings and said his colleagues have been supportive of his new venture.

"They enjoy it. The first question they always ask is, 'Where'd you find the time?'" he said. "My colleagues have been very nice. I've signed a lot of books for my colleagues at the hospital."

He's already at work on his next novel, "The Hostage Tower," which he expects to release next spring.

"It's the story of a children's hospital. Part of it is taken hostage. Imagine [the movie] 'Die Hard' at a children's hospital," he said.

"It's going to be a much more focused book, focused on the thriller and the characters involved. I'm going to keep it a much less-complicated story." **WL**

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# *Living* **spaces** Home and Garden

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## Living Spaces



# Every square inch

How to make the most of under-the-stairs space

by Allie Rivera  
Staff Writer

In any multi-level home, the space underneath the stairs can often be an afterthought, a strange collection of miscellaneous items that haven't found a home elsewhere in the house. With a bit of design and forethought, however, that space can be utilized in a variety of ways that are both fun and functional.

"Especially for younger homeowners whose interior living space may be more limited, using that space effec-

tively and efficiently can improve everyday living and all the activities that go with it," said Daniel Bailey, owner of Heartwood Designs & West Hartford Radiator Cover.

A woodworker and designer for over 40 years, Bailey said he first began thinking about creative uses for under-stair space when he and his wife lived in Europe.

"The population density was higher and living spaces generally smaller, but equipped to provide

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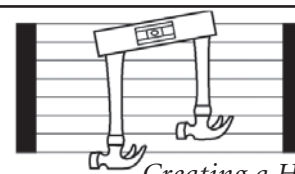
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## Living Spaces

adequate interior storage and accommodate lifestyle needs," he said.

According to Bailey, the space underneath a staircase can be converted to increase livable space, but it is important that in doing so, people stick with the overall aesthetic of the house.

"Converting unused or vacant space in the home is always a positive if handled in an aesthetically pleasing manner, however it's as easy to re-muddle as remodel," he said. "This is where it is important to consult someone with a sense of design. The conversion of the area into livable space needs to coordinate reasonably with the rest of the home."

To turn that area into a livable space, Bailey suggested thinking about the needs of the people of the home. One possibility he suggested is turning it into a homework area for children by adding a small desk or bench.

For those looking for a more comfortable space for all ages, Bailey suggested creating a reading nook with a bookshelf.

"Built-ins, such as benches with or without storage, are also an option under the stairs," he said. "The trick is to make these home improvements in a way that is consistent with the interior architecture of the home."

Along with creating more livable space, the under-stair area can also be used to increase storage in unique ways.

"The main thing, I think, would be to use it for something to store," said Roman Szewczak, owner of Expert Kitchens and Bath in New Britain. "Some people do custom drawers that pull out from the side, but it really depends on how your stairs are set up."

Also a professional woodworker, Szewczak said that in his experience he has seen clients build custom storage units to fit in that space, some opting for an additional closet and others looking for visibly pleasing shelving.

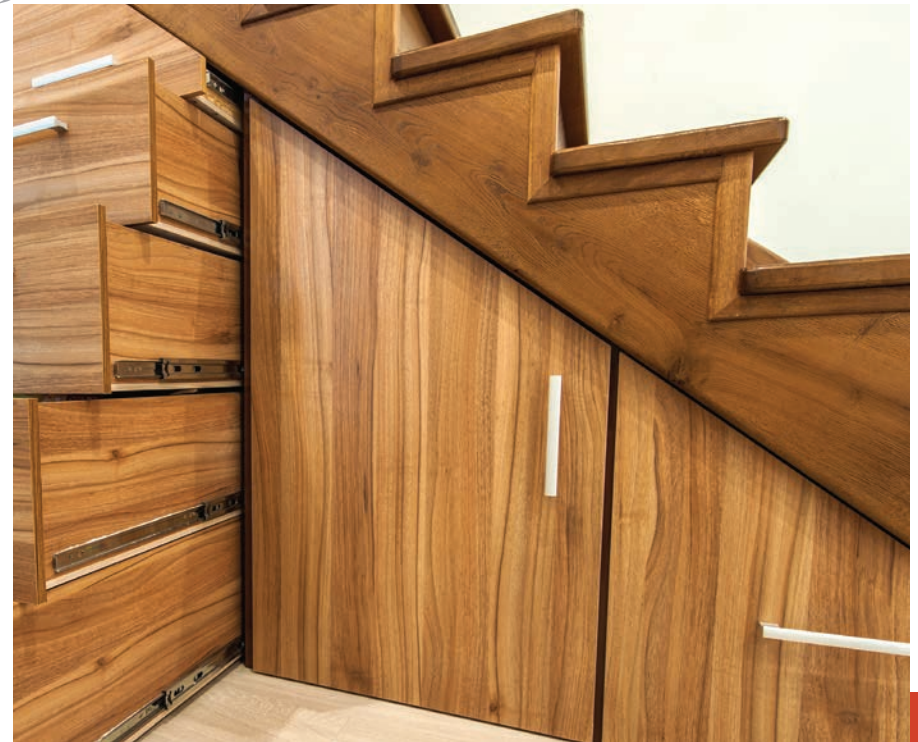
For stairs leading down to a basement, Szewczak suggested using the space to create a small wine cellar.

"You can get shelving underneath for it, or waterfall wine racks can be installed," he explained. "They're ones that step down and slide underneath."

Both designers agreed that when thinking about changing the use of an under-stair space, it is important to consider each situation uniquely.

"It all really comes back to how your stairs are set up," Szewczak said.

To get the most use out of the



space, Szewczak and Bailey both suggested contacting an experienced designer who can best determine how to transform the area.

"The visual outcome is as important as the utilitarian," Bailey said. "When it comes to shelving and closets under the stairs, it is important to design and build them for efficiency and convenience, especially in tight living quarters." **WL**

**"The main thing, I think, would be to use it for something to store."**

**- Roman Szewczak**



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# Making room for more

In-law apartments fill need, help everyone

by Alicia B. Smith  
Associate Editor



**B**uilder Mark Stidsen of Landsen Construction Corp. in Glastonbury chuckled about the in-law, or accessory apartment, he built in town and how the family's grandfather is still going strong, even though his grandchildren, who were kids when he moved in, are now out of college.

"It's kind of funny,"

Stidsen said of this particular project and how long the space has been occupied.

"It works out nice for everyone,"

he added about other similar projects he has done for families.

Stidsen said many families opt to build space for an aging relative as they may live out of state and need more care than they are getting and families would rather have them close by. In other cases, the aging family member may want to downsize, and moving in with family can be an option.

For those who are considering taking in a family member and creating space in their current home for them, Stidsen recommends researching local town ordinances first. Each community may have a different set of rules and guidelines as to what is and is not permissible when it comes to accessory apartments.

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"You need to pay attention to that," Stidsen said.

In Glastonbury, for instance, accessory apartments that are an addition cannot exceed 800 square feet and must be a part of the house so the finished project does not look like a two-family home.

In some instances, the utilities will have to be separate and a separate entrance will be necessary.

"Other towns have different scenarios. Every one is different," he said.

From there, families can then decide what type of solution might be best. This could be to put an addition onto their home, or if they have a large enough house, the best option might be to close off part of the home and create a bedroom, bath and kitchen area from this space.

"It seems like it works out," Stidsen said of clients who he has worked with in the past.

Among the benefits for the family, he said, is if the family's situation changes and the occupant moves, say, the homeowner can use the

space as a rental.

Jim Rose, owner of Rose Inc. in Farmington, has experience putting accessory apartments in and said the phenomena tend to come in waves. At different times through the years the concept is more popular than at other times.

His company has worked with families who have opted to renovate space above a garage as well as put an addition onto a house. Making a decision as to where to put an accessory apartment can come down to how much space is available and the budget for the project.

"I like to get an architect involved," Rose said. "It's easier to have everything drawn up, easier to change the mind than after the fact."

Realtor Nuala Griffin of Berkshire Hathaway in Avon has noticed home buyers are looking to have options for their family members to live with them.

"I think more and more things are returning to how they used to be with your parents coming to live with you," she said.

"What they are hoping to find, either to take over the space over the garage and make that into a unit," Griffin said, adding that accessory stairs can be added. "Or what they are doing is giving them the entire lower level, giving them a bedroom, bathroom and living space," she said of basement areas.

The area, Griffin, said has plenty to offer homebuyers looking for such a configuration. Many of the houses built in the 1990s are large enough to make room for additional family members.

In some instances, too, families are buying homes with a master suite on the first floor and allowing an older parent to have that space while they move to the second floor with their children.

Griffin said, too, another option for a family is to use space that exists but is not often used and let the elder person have that space as their own with some modest modifications, such as adding a full bath to the first floor. Formal living rooms and dining rooms are such spaces,

often not used when most of the activity is confined to the kitchen and family room.

"People are getting to be more practical," Griffin said.

While many families are looking to find ways to accommodate aging parents, in some cases families are looking for an accessory apartment to use for extended family that come to visit for longer stays. Those with family in Germany or India may have relatives who visit for three or four months and they can use the accessory space.

"I think people are searching for solutions," Griffin said, adding that the space can allow families more financial flexibility and, ultimately, be less expensive than paying for adult housing.

There is also the added benefit of the different generations learning from one another.

"I think it's nice to have an opportunity to be around grandchildren. You don't want to be on top of them," Griffin said. **WL**



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## Living Spaces



# Big possibilities for tiny kitchens

Galley kitchens can have airy feel

by Mara Dresner  
Staff Writer

Many of us feel an occasional pang of envy when flipping through a home design magazine or scrolling through Pinterest. But for those with a galley style kitchen, those photos of friends and families happily cooking and socializing around an island while checking on delicacies in a double oven are especially far removed from reality.

"A galley kitchen is a small, compact cooking area that usually has a counter along two long walls. Some homes contain only one counter along one long wall. They are beneficial to a home because the small kitchen allows for more room to be used elsewhere. However, it is somewhat difficult for more than one person to use the galley kitchen," said Adam Gove, who with his brother, Matt, owns Gove Restoration LLC in Wethersfield.

"Sometimes, an entry door to the home is located in a galley kitchen. This provides a challenge when designing these kitchens in that the door opens into the kitchen thus blocking access to certain cabinets. In a condo or townhouse, a galley kitchen does not typically have a door leading to the exterior of the house. The biggest challenge when remodeling a galley kitchen is using the space appropriately."

Matt Gove said the hallmark of a galley kitchen is "a kitchen that utilizes a layout that has more length than width. Cabinets would be located on each wall and face each other so that the work area becomes a narrow space. This layout can be very efficient if done properly and is often referred to as a 'corridor' style kitchen as well. It's a popular option for

apartments and other layouts where space is limited," he noted.

Part of the difficulty in renovating the space comes from the fact that there are certain necessities that a kitchen needs to have.

"Making sure that the kitchen can be used efficiently is by far one of the most challenging parts of a galley kitchen remodel. Space is at a premium, so being creative with the layout and working with the client to see how they use their kitchen is crucial in making a successful galley kitchen," Matt Gove said.

One way to maximize space is to rethink your cabinets.

"Have cabinets up to the ceiling; use up as much height as you can," Frank Christino of Christino Kitchens and Remodeling in Glastonbury recommended. "Frameless cabinets are great for small spaces. Each cabinet interior space is an inch and a half wider than traditional framed cabinets."

Normando Moquete Jr., CEO/owner of Pinnacle Maintenance LLC in Farmington, said that a couple of quick tweaks will make a difference.

"Add more wall cabinets for storage and a built-in microwave to make more countertop space," he said.

While it's easy to get seduced by the latest accessories, many of them take up too much space for a galley kitchen.

"Cabinet accessories kill a lot of space. Try not to over-accessorize the cabinets. What that means is there are a lot of these pull-out mechanisms like for oils and vinegars or pots and pans lids; there are all kinds of special inserts that make it more convenient but use up space.



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The amount of space you'd lose is crucial so you want to make sure you do not over-accessorize," Christino warned.

With enough planning – and if you're willing to give up some cabinet depth – he said it's possible to even fashion a small seating area.

"With galley kitchens, it's hard to get seating, but you can get a tiny little peninsula," Christino said. "We can bring the countertop out and around and it can become a table, as well as a countertop surface and entertaining area."

Adam Gove said that depending on the kitchen's design, seating might be an option on the outside of the kitchen.

"A galley kitchen does not always contain two long walls. It can be made using one long wall, usually the exterior wall, and base cabinets on the opposite side. This allows for the adjacent living space to be open to the kitchen. It also provides for a seating area on the living space side of the countertop," he noted.

He said there are numerous

challenges when looking to remodel a galley kitchen, all related to the small size.

"Wasted space is not an option in the cabinet design. We use custom cabinets made to maximize the cabinet area. This means there are not any voids between cabinets created by fillers used to 'stretch' cabinets from one wall to another. It is important to remember light when remodeling these kitchens. Not enough light can make the space feel closed in. Under-cabinet lighting combined with 4-inch recessed lights, both on dimmers, allows for a great deal of light without your eye being drawn to the source," he suggested. "Another challenge is making the space feel open. Light color cabinets along with open shelving and glass doors with lighting in the cabinet can make the kitchen feel larger than it is. Storage can be a challenge as well. Utilizing open shelving above windows and hiding appliances behind cabinet panels accomplishes not only storage concerns, but also making the space feel open.

The use of toe kick heaters is a great way to free up wall space if needed by removing the baseboard heat and installing a heater in the toe kick of a cabinet."

Matt Gove noted that with a traditional galley kitchen, you can lose efficient work flow when cooking.

"In a true galley kitchen with the cabinets closely facing each other, creating the 'work triangle' in the kitchen can be tough. By locating the sink in the cabinet that connects one side of the kitchen to the other, making a 'u' shaped layout, it creates one of the points of the triangle and allows for the corner cabinets to have added storage in them in the form of a lazy susan or a half-moon pull-out shelving unit," he said. "Wall ovens and counter depth refrigerators don't waste any space and keep the footprint of the cabinets nice and straight, which ultimately allows for better foot traffic areas. Open shelving and full extension pull-out drawers and shelves can provide efficient ways to store everything from pots and pans to pantry items. Lastly, cre-

ating a pass-through to an adjoining room can give the illusion of a much bigger space while helping to open the space up for entertaining purposes. The downside of that option would be the loss of upper cabinetry space, but if it is a larger galley kitchen, it's a great way to add character to the kitchen."

If you're not ready for a full remodel, Matt Gove said there are a number of ways to refresh your galley kitchen.

"Adding a tile backsplash or replacing an existing one can really update things. Also, adding some aftermarket full-extension slide-out shelves in some of the cabinets can provide much easier access to items that may be hard to get to. Re-facing or painting cabinets a lighter color can help to transform a galley kitchen. In addition, by changing out cabinet hardware to something sleek and simple, it helps to modernize the cabinets," he said. **WL**

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#### Time

Real estate is often a time-consuming investment. Tenants pay good money to live in attractive rental properties, and those tenants will have a host of needs that must be met.

Investors must be sure they have the time to address their tenants' concerns, especially investors with no plans to hire property management firms. Potential investors who already

have full plates at work and at home may not be able to devote the time necessary to make the most of their real estate investments. Time is also a factor in that real estate is not the type of investment that turns a profit overnight.

#### Costs

In addition to the mortgage on the property, investors must pay the taxes and insurance on the property, as well as any costs associated with maintaining and managing the property. Potential investors need to consider all of these costs, and might want to hire a real estate lawyer to help them make the most of their investments and any profits they yield. **WL**

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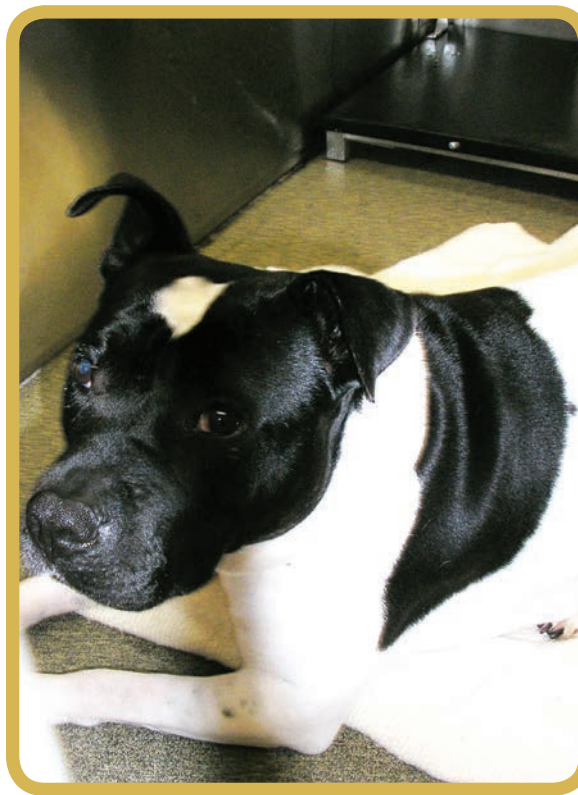
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<p><b>SAVE up to \$3.50</b> Starting at \$9.98 each with card</p> <p><b>Nutro Wild Frontier or Wholesome Essentials Cat Food</b> 2-6.5 lb. Bag, Select Varieties</p>		<p><b>10/\$5</b> Save 40¢ on 10 with card</p> <p><b>Friskies Cat Food</b> 5 oz. Can, Select Varieties <small>*Excludes Friskies Plus</small></p>	
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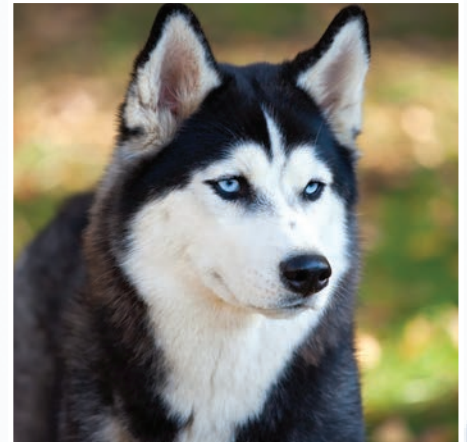
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**ROCKY HILL \$209,900**  
GORGEOUS! One of a kind! This end-unit townhouse is truly special. From the private location to the spotless garage to the extra office space to the wood floors to the custom kitchen! This is it!



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**27 Northwood Road, Newington \$299,900**  
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**110 Nooks Hill Road, Cromwell \$329,900**  
Custom built in 2000, 2079 SF Cape, 3 beds, 2.5 baths, 3 car garage, CAir, on 2.40 acres.



**37 Barberry Lane, Woodbridge \$374,900**  
3075 SF Colonial, 5 beds, 4 full baths, 2 car garage, 1.41 acres, CAir, on cul-de-sac.



**107 Sae Brook Lane, Mansfield \$259,900**  
3 bed, 3.5 bath, 2 car garage, 2100 SF Colonial, 650 finished SF in walk-out lower level, 2.10 acres, close to UCONN!



**21 2nd Avenue, Westbrook \$1,590,000**  
Spectacular views of Long Island Sound, bordering Waters Edge Beach Resort, private beach, 2200 SF Colonial, Master Bed loft, 4 addl bedrooms, 3 full baths, 1 car garage, CAir, lawn irrigation.



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**AVON**  
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**UPDATED!**



**MIDDLETOWN**  
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**ROCKY HILL \$284,900**  
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Spacious 9 rm home, 3 baths, C/A, inground pl, gazebo, covered porch.  
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6rms, 3BR, central air, finished LL, 2 car garage. Great Value!!  
**\$209,900**



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**\$399,900**



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**228 Cricket Knoll, Wethersfield**  
**\$374,900**

Lovely 4 Bed, 2 1/2 Bath Colonial, New Roof, New Vinyl Siding, Gas Heat, C/A, LR w/F/p, Formal DR, 1st Flr FR, Large Eat In Kit, Fully Fin LL, Hardwood Flrs, 2 Car Gar, Sliders Lead to Patio, Gorgeous Fruit Trees, Incredible Gardens & Greenhouse!!!



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- 3BR, 2.1 Bath
- 2 Att Gar, Gas Heat
- CAir, Deck



**NEWINGTON \$329,000**

- Colonial 1872 sf
- 3BR, 2 Bath
- 2 Att Garage
- CAir



**WEST HARTFORD \$449,000**

- Colonial Built 2004
- 2160 sf, 3BR
- 2.1 Bath, 2 Att Garage
- View of Reservoir



**NEWINGTON \$1,800 MONTH**

- 3BR Townhouse, 1248 sf
- 3BR, 2.1 Bath
- 2 Att Gar, Gas Heat
- CAir, Deck



**BERLIN \$399,900**

- Multi-family/Commercial
- 4100 sf, 4 Units
- Gas Heat, CAir
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**ROCKY HILL \$366,000**

- Col/Split 1991 sf
- 4BR, 2.1 Bath
- 2 Att Gar, Pool
- Huge Backyard

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Team Leader  
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**Mary Anne Hepburn**  
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**Joan Abbate**  
860-690-1354



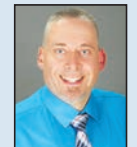
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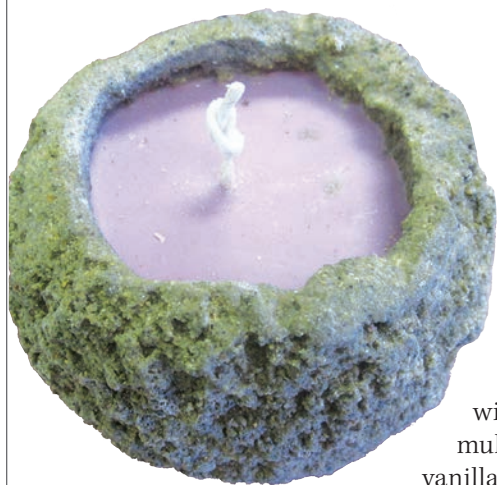
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## LETTERS

# Letters

**Editor's note:** Wethersfield LIFE received an unprecedented number of letters to the editor this month. Many of them are printed here, but space considerations and the desire to include other content precludes us from printing them all. Those that are left over will be given priority in our next issue. There will be a limit of two letters per candidate; additional supporters will be listed at the end of the candidate's second letter.

## Remembering Robert Keeney

### To the Editor:

The discovery of the World War II cruiser USS Indianapolis in the north Pacific Ocean in August closed a chapter of history that has been part of Wethersfield's story since 1945.

Twenty-year-old Robert Allen Keeney, a Wethersfield native, Wolcott Hill Road resident, and Wesleyan College student, served aboard the "Indy" when it was torpedoed and sunk by a Japanese submarine on July 30, 1945. The Indianapolis sailed to the island of Tinian and delivered materials that would be used to make the atomic bomb.

The ship was returning to port when it was torpedoed and sunk within minutes. The loss of life was extreme. About 75 percent of the nearly 1,200 man crew did not survive the sinking of the ship or the subsequent four days spent in the shark-infested waters. Bob Keeney was one of those who perished.

When the Wethersfield Historical Society, in partnership with the town, undertook the restoration of the now Robert Allen Keeney Memorial Cultural Center in the 1980s, Emma Keeney, Bob's mother, was a significant donor. Her one request was that her contribution would serve to remember her only child. His name on the building fulfills her request.

The discovery of the USS Indianapolis brings the Keeney story full circle. The "Indy" is, for all

intents and purposes, Bob Keeney's final resting place. The Keeney Center is where his story is told, both on placards in the second floor elevator lobby and on the way-finding sign in front of the building.

The next time you find yourself near the Keeney Center, remember Bob Keeney, his Indianapolis shipmates, and his mother, whose gift continues to benefit Wethersfield residents and preserves her son's legacy for future generations.

—Dorene Ciarcia

## Let's embrace one another

### To the Editor:

Home is where the heart is. Wethersfield is home, a community that embraces love, respect, differences and equality. I'm a mom of three children and have lived in this town for almost 16 years. I'm an advocate for equal rights.

I was born in Connecticut of Puerto Rican decent parents. I'm disabled and of low income this town has embraced me, my kids, and has shown me that the dreams I dream can be a reality. Where I live there a range of differences with ethnicity, religions, sexual orientation, income varieties and views. but regardless, I'm proud to live here because there's a true meaning of love and respect.

The schools are amazing. So are all departments including an exceptional police department and fire department, the best town youth and social services and parks and recreational. This town has amazing churches, a lot of small and big stores that all fit into the same love and respect for equality; this town is just as I described and for all, not just a chosen few.

They keep showing us all to never give up, to know that we're a community that sticks up and stands up for each other and teaches the true meaning of being part of an amazing state we call the Constitution state, historically still today always breaking barriers for truth, respect and what's right.

The true meaning of it takes a village to raise a child – my oldest just graduated Wethersfield High and is going to UConn to be a doctor to give back to her community, something instilled right here in Wethersfield. I grew up thinking as a child maybe only in my city of Hartford someone like me could never be welcome in a town. Well, I graduated high school in Rocky Hill and lived an amazing five years there.

I moved to Wethersfield to be next to the city and the town that also shows me love and respect, so I'm a lucky girl. I live in the best state, the best town, surrounded by all my mentors of equality. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

—Carmen Miligros Saez

## Hemmann leaves a legacy

### To the Editor:

The town of Wethersfield is losing a longtime leader. This fall one name you will not see on the ballot is Donna Hemmann. After more than a decade of service to the community she loves, Hemmann is stepping aside to take care of her family.

Donna has been a guiding force in the town hall for years. She is an advocate for our seniors, a mom who cares deeply about the education our students receive and a steward of the environment. One area in particular where Donna will be greatly missed is in the area of finance and sound practices that really have put Wethersfield on solid footing moving forward.

During her time as mayor, Donna was a thinker and asked that the council create a 1 percent fund to make sure there was a dedicated revenue stream for paving of our roads. She also garnered support and asked that a portion of the property sale to CREC magnet school near the border with Hartford's South End stay invested every year in order to gain interest so the town can build a nest egg to use toward future expenses.

The Republican team in Wethersfield is proud of Donna and her tireless work to make the community she lives in better. This year our Republican team of Town Council candidates including Stathis Manousos, Tom Mazarella, Mary Pelletier and the three of us pledge to continue Donna's hard work.

We will miss her leadership, her steady hand during tough times and her ability to bring consensus. Without her loyalty and dedication, our town would not be the wonderful place it is today.

—Mike Hurley, Mike Rell  
and Jodi Latina

## Like Lesser for council

### To the Editor:

We'd like to share our strong recommendation for Kenny Lesser for Town Council. We met the Lesser family through the Webb School community and have been so impressed with Kenny's commitment to and leadership on behalf of Wethersfield, and especially for children and those in need of some social services.

Kenny's financial and business acumen coupled with his passion for serving others is exemplary. His proactive vision and diplomatic approach to challenges would make him an outstanding contributor and leader on Town Council.

Kenny was the guiding force for two highly successful Webb sixth grade field trips to UConn showcasing academics and the spectrum of campus life and athletic options to our children. He has also served as assistant basketball coach for rec teams.

He serves on the Youth Advisory Board, the Wethersfield Academy Think Tank, and on the town-wide Hunger Action Team and the Economic Development and Improvement Commission.

Kenny spearheaded the concept of the Mayor's Charity Ball in 2016 and it has now turned into an annual fundraiser to support worthy



# LETTERS

causes like the food bank and town social services. Kenny is the president of that committee, and together with his wife Cindy and many other town leaders, gives his spirit and time generously to ensure a highly profitable fundraiser and fabulous night of community spirit.

–*Eileen Candels Griffin  
and Patrick Griffin*

## Supports Polly Moon

### To the Editor:

I am proud to endorse Polly Moon for a third consecutive term as a member of the Board of Education. Polly is a longtime resident of Wethersfield who has spent countless hours on the board devoted to the children of Wethersfield, including her two grandchildren who are currently being educated in our schools.

Her seemingly endless energy doesn't end there. Polly has been chairperson of the Wethersfield Library Board, has served on the Hunger Action Team of Foodshare and is on the Board of Finance and Information Committee, among others.

Your vote for Polly Moon is your vote for the children of Wethersfield to whom she continues to be wholeheartedly committed.

–*Harry Lichtenbaum*

## Backs Breton for council

### To The Editor:

I am writing in support of Mary Schultz Breton for Town Council. I am proud to say that Mary is my sister and know that she has the acumen to be a great town councilor.

Mary has been employed by Aetna for the past 31 years and serves as the director of business project management. She started her career at Aetna after graduating summa cum laude from the University of Connecticut School of Business, where she obtained her B.S. in business marketing.

While working at Aetna, she

earned her law degree from Western New England School of Law. Mary and her husband of 20 years, John, have raised three wonderful children who have grown and developed through the Wethersfield school system: Jack, Mairead and Charlotte, ages 18, 16, 12. She is active in town and church and is committed to the strong sense of community and history that make Wethersfield a great place to raise a family.

Mary has an outstanding work ethic and I know she will work hard for all of Wethersfield's residents. She is smart and brings a strong common-sense approach to her decision making, which I have witnessed first hand through the years. She will review each town issue with thoughtful consideration for all residents.

She wishes to run for a Town Council seat to help give back for the positive experiences her family has had in town. She is committed to keeping the town running smoothly, attracting businesses and ensuring that the town retains the character and charm that is Wethersfield.

–*Kenneth Schultz*

## Spinella is her choice

### To the Editor:

I supported Anthony Spinella in his first run for Town Council in 2015 and I support him even more enthusiastically today as I have watched him govern for the last two years. Anthony is now a proven leader, demonstrating all of the qualities expected in a responsible official.

He looks at all sides of an issue, deliberates carefully, and is always open to new ideas. He has championed some very important issues in our town including responsible spending, economic development and safety.

He has explored such innovative ideas as regionalizing services in order to share expenses. I have known Anthony for a long time and respect both him and his family.

He truly care about the people of our community and has dedicated his time and effort to solving our problems. Anthony truly deserves a second term as a town councilman.

–*Maryanne Shinn*

## Backs Amy Bello

### To the Editor:

I am proud to support Amy Morrin Bello for re-election to the Town Council. I have known Amy for many years and had the opportunity to work with her when she was the assistant town clerk.

As registrar of voters, I worked closely with Amy, especially during election times, and I know her to be smart, efficient and organized. She was always pleasant and helpful and she easily and expeditiously handled any issues or concerns that I would bring to her attention.

During this time Amy gained a vast understanding of town government that has served her well as a current member of the Town Council.

During the past two years, Amy has been a leader on several committees such as budget and finance, public safety, and rules and procedures. She supports the proper funding of education and infrastructure.

As a life-long resident, Amy is deeply committed to keeping Wethersfield moving forward while remaining mindful of the history and charm that keeps Wethersfield the beautiful town that it is.

Amy is a dedicated public servant. In addition to being a member of the Town Council, she is also involved in other boards and committees and works tirelessly for the town. I enthusiastically and fully support Amy for re-election to the town council.

–*Camille Mogelnicki*

## Favors Matthew Forrest

### To the Editor:

Matthew Forrest is a neighbor of mine and I see daily his commitment

to our community. When his car pulls out of his driveway on a Monday night, I know he is headed to a Wethersfield early childhood meeting, where he contributes ideas and solutions for how to efficiently and effectively teach our youth and position them to be competitive in the world.

Within our schools, he supports small class sizes and will speak out if the numbers get too large.

When home, Matthew is a lawyer and business owner and, seeing the integrity with which he excels in those roles, I would trust him with setting the priorities with our town's resources. I know his mind is always working for our benefit and he has some new thoughts about how to keep our taxes reasonable but still provide quality services for our citizens.

It is clear from our sidewalk conversations that Matthew is a dedicated supporter of our environment. He led the charge in protecting Wilkus Farm and I know it is important to him to protect the assets that keep our community healthy and beautiful, like our street trees, the meadows, and clean air and water.

–*Christa Allard*

## Hemann supports Mazzarella

### To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to endorse Tom Mazzarella for the Town Council. I have known Tom for a long time, he will bring his experience as a small business owner for many years to the table through good times and bad. This will provide a helpful perspective in understanding the economics that our town small businesses face every day and how that impacts our community.

He has been attending town council meetings for over a year and is not afraid to ask the hard questions or to suggest alternative solu-



# LETTERS

tions. He is not afraid to research a potential problem and seek expertise from his wide circle of contacts to help offer suggestions and answers.

He and his wife Karen both grew up in Wethersfield and attended our schools and raised their family here, who also are products of our schools. We need people like Tom to help guide our future. Please give Tom your vote, he will represent you well.

—Donna Hemmann

## McCurdy is their choice

### To the Editor:

We heartily endorse Ginger McCurdy for the Board of Education. Ginger and her husband Jeff Kotkin have been our friends and neighbors for the last 24 years. When we met, Ginger was a financial analyst and budget manager for Barclays.

Through the years, she has been a dedicated volunteer and many of those positions benefitted education in Wethersfield including: presidency of the Wethersfield Cooperative Nursery School, co-presidencies of both the Webb and Emerson-Williams PTOs, member of the School Projects Building committee, and treasurer for the Wethersfield Creative Arts Council, to name a few.

Additionally, Ginger volunteered weekly in an elementary classroom for 24 years, which provided her with valuable insight into the Wethersfield educational programs and the needs of the schools and students. She continues to serve as a math tutor for Literacy Volunteers, helping adults achieve their GEDs.

We know Ginger to be intelligent, compassionate, thoughtful and a good listener. Her management and financial skills, as well as her volunteer work in education, make her uniquely qualified to be a member of the Board of Education.

She would truly be an advocate for students and parents while utilizing her expertise in the area of finance to balance the needs of both the school system and the town.

—Joan and Clark Nelson

## Rell deserves another term

### To the Editor:

Like many, I am wary of partisan politics and chose to be an independent voter. What I look for in a candidate is someone with integrity and leadership skills.

The candidate I am willing to support in any election must have demonstrated leadership and have ideas and values that align closely with my own. The municipal elections are fast approaching and as the saying goes, “all politics is local.” While everything that is going on in Washington and in Hartford affects us, nothing affects us more than the decisions made at the local level.

Property taxes for many of us are increasing and one of the largest household expenses. Public safety and education are funded at the local level and so are many services we rely on every day. Economic development is vital to the continued health and sustainability of our community. These are serious issues which need a thoughtful and disciplined approach.

This November, I am supporting Mike Rell for re-election to the Town Council. I had a chance to work with Mike Rell and get a better sense of his character and abilities last spring when facing severe cuts in education funds from Hartford.

The Board of Education proposed to cut bus transportation funds for Wethersfield students at my son’s school, Corpus Christi. Mike was instrumental in helping me and our school’s administration sit down with school administrators and the leadership on the Board of Education for a frank discussion regarding the issues and costs involved in busing all Wethersfield students.

His collaborative approach in getting all those around the table to understand the issues from all affected sides and push for transparency in accounting of costs helped us to work together on a solution.

The funds were kept intact for the new school year and the families

of our school, who are also Wethersfield taxpayers, will be treated fairly, but more importantly, students did not face any significant disruption. This is the type of non-partisan leadership that Wethersfield needs right now.

—Peggy Disenza

## McCurdy merits vote

### To the Editor:

Ginger McCurdy will be a terrific member of the Board of Education. Ginger is smart, analytical, empathetic and highly dedicated to bringing the best education to Wethersfield’s school children providing them with the same strong start in life our three children had in town.

Ginger and I have been married for 38 years. She was first involved with Wethersfield’s schools nearly 30 years ago when our son attended the Webb Kindergarten Center. Since then, she has been co-president of both the Webb and Emerson-Williams PTOs and president of the Wethersfield Cooperative Nursery School.

Ginger does not sit on her hands when a need is apparent. When our kids moved on to college, Ginger volunteered weekly in Emerson, Highcrest and Webb helping kindergartners and first-graders with their reading and math lessons.

When she was frustrated with the college application resources available to our daughter at Wethersfield High School, she spent a half year digitizing the high school’s paper records that recorded the success rates of WHS seniors applying to colleges throughout the country.

Ginger graduated with honors from Yale with a business degree. She has managed cash for large corporations and was once responsible for managing the budget model for a U.S. subsidiary of Barclays Bank.

She is smart, thoroughly at ease managing budgets in the tens of millions of dollars, and wholly dedicated to the success of Wethersfield’s

3,500 students.

—Jeff Kotkin

## Backs Breton for election

### To the Editor:

I wish to provide the citizens of Wethersfield with some information regarding the candidacy of my mother, Mary Schultz Breton, for Town Council. Like her Democratic colleagues also on the slate for November, my mother is extremely passionate about this town, the families and people that live here, and the services that we make use of and enjoy.

She wants the town to be the best place it can be, as her and my father saw it when they moved here 19 years ago. But most importantly, a large driving factor in her decision to run is her desire to help people.

With experience in leadership (Church of Incarnation Faith Formation teacher), law (Western New England School of Law 1994), and volunteering, I cannot think of a more fitting “fresh” candidate for the Democratic Party.

My mother has provided for me a moral framework that I follow to this day. She has applied this moral framework to her campaign in extremely fitting ways.

For example, she states that, “Thoughtful decision making on behalf of all of our constituents will yield the best results” and constantly repeats that “kindness wins over hate.” She believes in the importance of education, the implementation and use of clean energy, quick and thoughtful decision making, and the continuous need to attract new businesses to our town.

I urge the citizens of Wethersfield to strongly consider my mother for Town Council. With thoughtful decision making, an extensive background, a strong moral compass and a work ethic that I admire, Mary Schultz Breton will excel at her position if elected. I also urge my peers who have recently turned 18 to consider registering to vote.



# LETTERS

To those going away to college, I urge you to contact me or the town election department regarding how you can obtain an absentee ballot that you can fill out without even having to leave campus.

—*Jack Breton*

## Forrest gets the nod

### To the Editor:

I'm writing to support Matthew Forrest for Town Council. He is a bright and well-educated man with real-world business experience, the kind we need in our government.

I know him as the president of the Wethersfield Business Networking group that meets at the country club every week to help the growth of local businesses in town. He is constantly helping local businesses find the resources they need to succeed.

If anyone can continue to improve our commercial redevelopment base, Matthew has the affability, governmental experience and finance experience to make it happen.

His vision is for Wethersfield to expand our tax base with significant classy redevelopment along our commercial corridors – the Silas Deane and the Berlin Turnpike – ensure a strong educational system with low class sizes and increased early childhood education, along with environmental policies which keep green spaces and town beautification a priority so residents and businesses want to build their future here.

—*Sandy Byrne*

## They're backing Michaels

### To the Editor:

As longtime residents and proud parents of three sons who attended Wethersfield Public Schools, we are happy to share our support of Lew Michaels for a position on the Board of Education.

Mr. Michaels has two young children, including a 5-year-old who just started kindergarten at Hanmer. His wife Kristen is a lifelong resident

and graduate of Wethersfield Public Schools. They are committed to quality education that does not burden the community, but rather enhances the town.

Lew has been employed at Hartford Stage since 2005 and has received recognition from the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., as one of the nation's emerging leaders in making cultural arts programs accessible to people with disabilities of all ages.

Lew gained an appreciation of public education from his parents, who were both teachers in Berlin and Middletown Public Schools. He was previously elected to the Berlin Board of Education for a three-year term, where he served as treasurer for two years and was part of a superintendent search committee.

Please join us in voting for Lew Michaels for Board of Education. We believe his passion and commitment will serve Wethersfield well.

—*Ted and Joyce Mauro*

## Martino makes a difference

### To the Editor:

I want to take a few minutes to tell everyone about a man I feel epitomizes what the founding fathers envisioned when they put together the laws and framework for what many historians called the great experiment – our own democracy. Tony Martino is this man.

If you have the opportunity to sit and talk to Tony you will see that he always looks at an issue from the working man's point of view. Tony is not wrapped up in ideology or us vs. them. He works to accomplish a common goal that will appeal to all constituents.

His combined experience in the public and private sector make him an excellent choice to continue on the Town Council. I have seen him work hard on keeping business in town, attracting new business and working with local and state officials on town revenues and expenditures.

I have known Tony for quite a

few years through our involvement in the Knights of Columbus as well as members of the Church of the Incarnation. I am currently in a leadership position in the Knights of Columbus and Tony has been a mentor in many ways.

He has pulled me off to the side to help out and provide pointers on many aspects of my responsibilities. This is done in a professional manner that at the end of the day turns out to be a learning tool.

Tony Martino is a person who will sit, listen and act for the residents of Wethersfield. He will always be our advocate at a time where it seems government officials forgot why they were elected.

—*Jeffrey Lojko*

## Moon does a good job

### To the Editor:

As president of the Friends of the Wethersfield Library, Inc., I want to commend Polly Moon for her work with us as a volunteer and to urge the residents of Wethersfield to re-elect her to the Board of Education. Polly has devoted years of service to our town and has become experienced in serving on the Board of Education, a position that has become so crucial in this time of budget insecurity.

She defends our Wethersfield Library for its role as an essential component in the life of our community, assists us with our book sales, and offers expert advice for our mission of supporting library programs. We must continue Polly's willing service in making Wethersfield a premier town in which we thrive.

—*Carolyn Vallieres*

## Praise for Paradise

### To the Editor:

It is a pleasure to write this recommendation on behalf of Elaine Paradise as she hopes to continue her role as a member of the Board of Education. I have known Elaine most of my life, as we grew up in close neighborhoods and attended the

same schools and summer programs in town.

My sons also had the distinct privilege of having Elaine as a teacher while at Hanmer School and she was outstanding. Her desire and interests have always been to be a proponent for the students and teachers in Wethersfield and she never wavers from her beliefs.

Elaine's passion for education began when she worked with young people in our summer programs here in town. The majority of her teaching career was spent in Wethersfield schools and she and her husband David consciously made the decision to raise their own family here and also educate them in our schools.

Elaine brings the viewpoint of former student, teacher, parent and taxpayer to her role on the board and this certainly makes her extremely knowledgeable. Elaine is passionate about education and about Wethersfield; her willingness to continue in her role on the board supports this.

Elaine has the time and desire to follow through on this commitment and is more than willing to do so, she is eager to continue her work. Please consider Elaine Paradise when you go to the polls this year.

—*Donna Schilke*

## Carey is the choice

### To the Editor:

We have known Charles Carey for more than 18 years. When our children were young, we trusted Charles to watch them for us. As they entered school, we trusted Charles to represent their best interest, along with the interests of all other Wethersfield students, through his role on the Board of Education.

During the four years in which Charles served on the Board of Education he actively engaged with parents by listening to their concerns and seeking out feedback. He created an inclusive environment that made parents and children feel like they had a voice in decisions



# LETTERS

made by the board.

While on the board, Charles delivered on a number of commitments. He worked diligently to create an all-day kindergarten program, improved instruction with the Columbia readers and writers workshop, and as the chair of student programs and services he helped bring a new K-8 math curriculum to our schools.

During his tenure, Charles was also the finance chair and made the process more transparent to the board members and the residents of Wethersfield.

Although no longer representing the parents of Wethersfield on the Board of Education, Charles is still very present in our community. Over the past two years Charles has been actively involved in the building committee for the high school and has been the president of the Charles Wright PTO.

As a busy husband, father and educator, Charles could easily say he is too busy to get involved with his community. However, that is not who he is. Charles is always there for his family, friends and community.

This is why we wholeheartedly support him as he runs for the Board of Education and encourage all residents to join us in supporting Charles.

—*Judy and Apostol Laske*

## Manousos is her choice

### To the Editor:

I am happy and honored to support Stathis Manousos in his candidacy for Town Council. I have known Stathis since we were both in kindergarten, which for those who know us, that is close to a half a century. Our conversations and interactions over the years have progressed from sharing crayons, going on field trips to historical Old Wethersfield, supporting WHS teams, sharing the WHS Eagles Alumni pride, and now watching our children follow the same path.

During these years, we both have witnessed many changes in our town, some good and some less

than popular among the residents. Stathis will listen to all members of the community and neither topic is too small nor too large. Stathis wants to know what is on the minds of residents and what keeps them up at night.

He uses a proactive approach by doing his homework, asking questions and gaining an understanding of all matters. He forms his opinion and makes decisions based on facts, not on emotion.

He is comfortable engaging in conversations and remains open in debates. He thrives in this open dialogue forum, as some of you already know.

Stathis is an executive at LAZ parking. His business acumen will help bring fiscal responsibility back to our town, along with a commitment to its economic development. As a parent, Stathis understands the importance of a quality education and will work with constituents to keep the high standards we have grown accustomed to.

I cannot stress enough that Stathis has a tremendous amount of enthusiasm for our town's goals that is contagious and will result in a positive impact on Wethersfield.

We can all agree we want to make Wethersfield a wonderful town, a desired community for many generations to come. Stathis' commitment and drive will benefit not only the town, but all those individuals within our neighborhoods. The opportunities for Wethersfield are endless and by voting for Stathis our town's visions become a reality.

—*Maria Johnson*

## Barry backs Bello

### To the Editor:

Two years ago, I had the pleasure of starting work with Amy Morrin Bello on the Town Council. Amy consistently brings her energy, commitment, new ideas and common sense to our deliberations. She is a thoughtful, intelligent and fiscally responsible member of the Town Council.

My support of Amy, however, is not solely based upon my experience with her as a colleague on the council. I have known Amy as a neighbor and friend for more than 12 years. I have watched and admired how she and her husband Rich have raised their daughters.

Her commitment to her family, including her parents, and to the community at large is unmatched. I wholeheartedly endorse Amy Morrin Bello for a second term on the Town Council.

—*Steve Barry*  
*Deputy Mayor*

## Mazzarella makes impression

### To the Editor:

I endorse Tom Mazzarella for Town Council. Tom and I have been friends for 45 years. He is not a politician. Tom is a successful business owner who is retiring this year and wants to give back to the community.

He is the type of guy who, once committed to a cause, does not give up. Tell him he can't succeed and that just adds fuel to the fire. I believe he will work tirelessly to get our town back on track.

His business experience has taught him that you need to spend money to make money and that you should also see a return on your investment. Tom understands that the town needs to spend money; however, he will bring a much-needed common sense approach to town spending.

We must get our property taxes under control. Please get out and vote, elect Tom Mazzarella to the Town Council on Nov. 7.

—*Tom Lawton*

## Vote Republican

### To the Editor:

The State of Connecticut is in a self-inflicted fiscal crisis that's hurting families and taxpayers statewide. Locally, we need a team of strong leaders who are not influenced by the special interests at the State Capitol but work for everyone's best interests.

It's time to vote for a team of strong leaders who will place Wethersfield taxpayers first. Please join me in voting for the Republican team on Nov. 7.

—*Mark Pappa*

## Pelletier will serve well

### To the Editor:

For all Wethersfield residents who have been disappointed with the rapid rise in taxes and government spending in recent years and with the weaker than expected economic recovery and are looking for a change of direction, please join me in voting for Mary Pelletier for Town Council on Nov. 7.

I have known Mary as a compassionate and intelligent person, always willing to listen to all sides of an issue. She has been active in the community through her work on the Charter Review Commission, board of the Wethersfield Housing Authority, the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Wethersfield Village Improvement Association, where I have had the pleasure of working with her, to name just a few.

As a former attorney for the United States Department of Justice, she will be a strong advocate for greater fiscal responsibility, economic development, and efficiency and transparency in town government. Mary will demand meaningful reforms to control long-term costs and keep our property taxes affordable so that Wethersfield can continue to be a great place to live and raise a family.

—*Robert Garrey*

## Martino gets their vote

### To the Editor:

With the increasingly greater pressure on Connecticut towns to self-subsist despite significantly reduced state financial support (regardless of increasing mandates), decreased funding for the education of our children, and an overall bleak economic picture for the state, perhaps now more than ever the need for superior and experienced leadership is a necessity for elected office.



# LETTERS

As a Democratic candidate for the Town Council, Tony Martino contributes strong fiscal oversight to our town while seeking new ways to continue economic development. He serves as chairperson of the council's Finance Committee, a responsibility that prepares him well for continued leadership in governing the town of Wethersfield in a very difficult economic climate.

Strong Democratic governance has helped prepare the town for the challenges ahead. We trust that with Tony Martino's continued efforts on behalf of the taxpayers of Wethersfield, the community's future and the sustained excellence of our school system remains bright.

—*Bobbie and Mark Granato*

## Selects Spinella

### To the Editor:

I am writing to support the re-election of Anthony Spinella to the Town Council. Anthony has proven himself to be a diligent, competent and skilled public servant.

I am so happy that he has chosen to seek another term. In the past two years he has demonstrated a true understanding of his role. He listens carefully to all sides of an issue before making a decision and then bases his decision on facts and on the common good of our citizens.

Throughout his first term, he has been a champion of public safety, reflecting his years of experience as a prosecutor. He has also demonstrated a deep understanding of budgetary matters, using this knowledge to find ways to control spending and at the same time grow our economy.

He is interested in Wethersfield because his roots are here and that is another enormous plus for our community. Anthony is truly deserving of election to the Town Council for another term.

—*Marilyn McPhee*

## Breton is her pick

### To the Editor:

I am writing to endorse Mary Breton for Town Council. I have known

Mary for more than 10 years and believe she will be an asset to the Town Council.

Mary is an intelligent woman who takes time to listen before expressing an opinion or making a decision. In today's world of complex issues, decisions should not be made quickly or rashly, and she will take her time to consider solutions for all of Wethersfield's residents before making a decision.

Mary knows kindness wins over hate. She supports the many volunteers who help keep Wethersfield's community, history and character strong. She believes in the importance of strong public schools and all the programs associated with them.

Mary believes in order to keep our town running and safe we need to continue to attract businesses and retain the character of the town. She supports clean energy efforts at the local level that are reasonable, affordable, effective and efficient for both the short and long term.

Mary is a supporter of programs, services and activities in Wethersfield. She knows they make it a great experience to live in Wethersfield because she has been involved in many while raising a family here.

—*Melanie Kallajian*

## Retired teacher endorses McCurdy

### To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Ginger McCurdy for Board of Education. I have known Ginger since 1991 when she was a parent of a child in my first grade class. This parent/teacher relationship continued as I went on to teach her other two children.

Ginger volunteered in the classroom at every opportunity. She was concerned with the success of all of the children in our room. A decade later, Ginger and I met again where she offered to volunteer in my kindergarten classroom.

Ginger faithfully volunteered two times a week in my classroom until my retirement. She still cares about the education of the children

in this town. Wethersfield's children and parents would be lucky to have someone with her commitment and passion as a member of their Board of Education.

—*Lisa Cimino*

## Another for Breton

### To the Editor:

It is my pleasure to endorse Mary Breton to serve the residents of Wethersfield on the Town Council. Mary has the drive, determination and dedication to fight for those issues that are of key importance to both her constituents and the town.

She is a hard worker, as evidenced by the fact that while we were employed together at Aetna she held several very responsible positions and was able to effectively balance her demanding workloads and at the same time successfully complete law school and get her law degree.

Additionally, Mary and her husband John have raised a wonderful family here in Wethersfield. I strongly believe Mary would be an excellent addition to the Town Council.

—*Jim Rau*

## Backs Lesser for council

### To the Editor:

I am writing to support Ken Lesser for Town Council. While this is Ken's first run for public office in Wethersfield, previously he was a member of the Newington Town Council and the Newington Board of Education.

Ken will be a tremendous asset to the council. He has the ability to listen when a problem is presented and immediately think of creative ways to solve that problem. His positive attitude is contagious and he thinks outside the box when it comes to resolving issues.

I served on the Youth Advisory Board with Ken and was impressed with his enthusiasm and willingness to work collaboratively to quickly get things done.

Ken is married to Cindy Lesser and is the proud dad of Rachel, Allie and Lauren. Making the town a bet-

ter place for all is important to Ken. He has volunteered as the president of the Mayor's Charity Ball, a member of the Hunger Action Team, the Economic Development and Improvement Commission; girls' basketball coach at Webb School and formerly was the president of the Newington Chamber of Commerce.

Please vote for Ken on Nov. 7. He will represent you well on the council.

—*Gerri Roberts*

## Praises Breton

### To the Editor:

As a neighbor and friend of Mary Breton, I am writing in support of her run for Town Council. Mary's love for and pride in Wethersfield for its sense of community, history, charm and character has been apparent to my family since she welcomed us to our neighborhood six years ago.

Mary is a constant presence at town events and her involvement in and support for town programs is an inspiration, with her efforts and values apparent in the accomplishments of her three children. I know Mary will work hard to support continued focus on programs, services, schools and activities that make it a great experience to raise a family in Wethersfield.

I have also been impressed with and inspired by Mary's emphasis on kindness and critical thinking in an age of sound bites, simple rhetoric and increasingly polarizing politics. I would confidently rely on Mary to consider all aspects of a problem and to listen to all of her constituents – not just those who agree with her – to develop thoughtful and responsive solutions that would maximize the benefits for our town.

I am especially excited about Mary's focus on the importance of education as well as clean energy efforts at the local level that are reasonable, affordable, effective and efficient. Mary's clear investment in our town and all its promise is why she has my vote.

—*Jessica Fritz Aguiar*



# wethersfield LIFE

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**TurleyCT.com**

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# Editorial

## Legislature should be ashamed

**A**s this issue went to press, the state legislature was still struggling to adopt a budget, even with the fiscal year onset of Oct. 1 staring it in the face. If they have passed a spending plan by the time you read this, it almost certainly is one that creates pain for cities, towns and taxpayers.

That's because too many elected officials allowed a massive deficit to develop before doing anything about it. There is no quick or painless fix to a deficit of more than \$1 billion.

Legislators will tell us that it's not their fault. It's the fault of those who held state office five, seven or 10 years ago. Never mind the fact that many of the people now serving in the House and Senate were in office five, seven or 10 years ago.

One of the problems is that Connecticut has a history of one-party rule in its legislature. That's never a good idea, no matter which political party wields the power. It inevitably

leads to complacency.

But before we pile all the blame on the majority Democrats and incumbent Gov. Dannel Malloy we should also remember that over the past 25 years Connecticut had three other governors: independent Lowell Weicker Jr. and Republicans John Rowland and M. Jodi Rell.

They all share in the blame and there is plenty to go around. How did the problem get this bad? Why didn't somebody see it coming and do something about it?

It's easy to spend someone else's money and spend it they have, by the millions. There appears to be no sense of responsibility, no awareness of the need to be stewards of the taxpayers' money.

When the lottery was first introduced it was supposed to be the wonderful new revenue stream that would fund all of the state's fiscal needs. The legislature spent it like drunken sailors and kept right on spending.

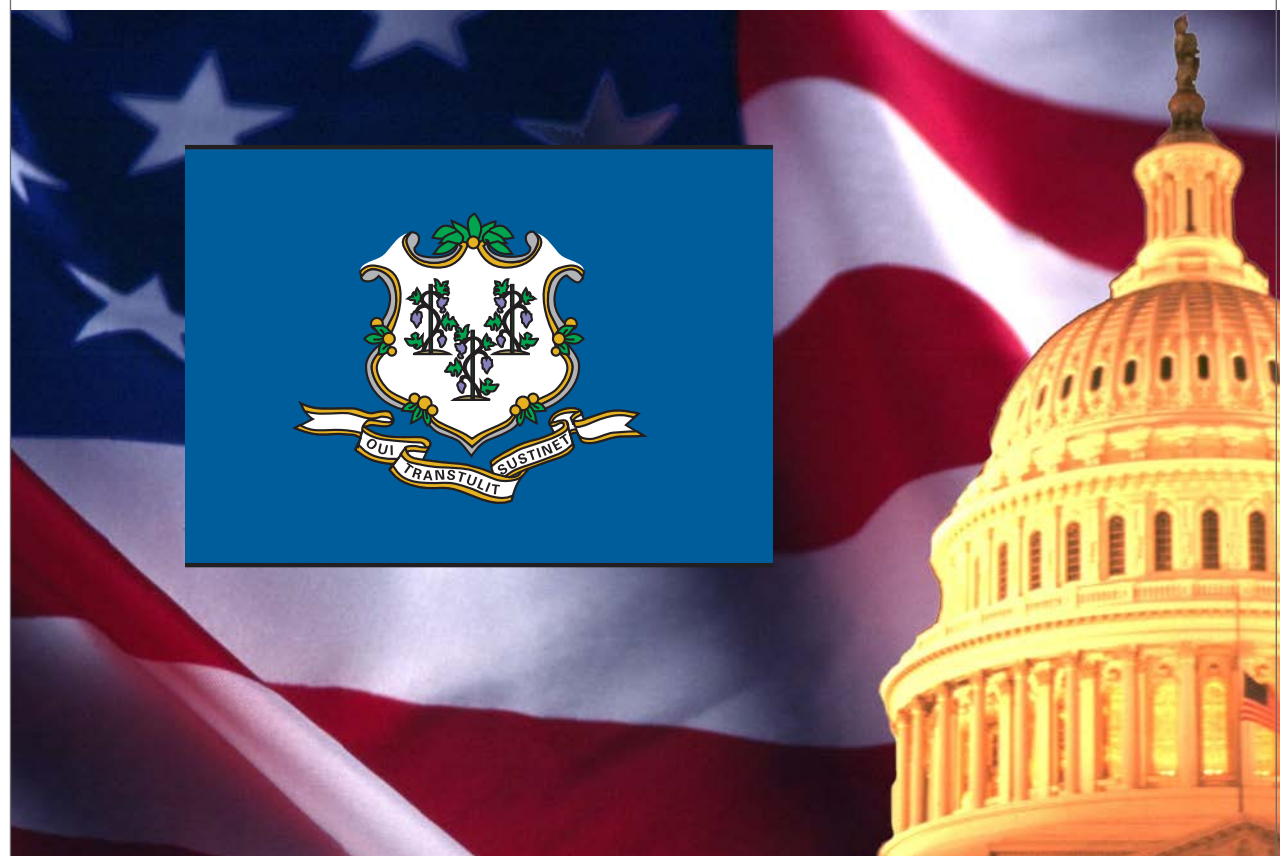
Then the Native American casinos came along with a windfall of millions of dollars that would not otherwise have become available. Surely that would solve all the state's fiscal needs. They did the same thing.

Follow that with the state personal income tax. That massive pool of money was going to make state government flush in cash forever. To lessen the sting, the public was promised that it was going to be part of overall tax reform that would reduce the burden in other areas.

We're still waiting. It turned out, as its critics proclaimed, to be one more tax on top of all the others.

Maybe what Connecticut needs is a law such as exists in 19 other state and the District of Columbia to hold recall elections. This allows the public to petition at any time prior to the end of an elected official's term to remove him or her from office.

Maybe that would get their attention. [WL](#)







**BY MARK DIXON**  
**WFSB METEOROLOGIST [AMS]**



## Color Changing...

**I**t's now officially fall and the annual transition of foliage is underway. Of course, being in New England, we're a tourist destination for leaf peepers, compliments of the vibrant show of color.

Back in June on the summer solstice, we had a total of 15 hours and 14 minutes of possible daylight;

by the time we reach the winter solstice, that number shrinks to 9 hours and 7 minutes – a pretty incredible loss of just over 6 hours! As we progress out of summer and into autumn, shorter days and cooler nights signal trees that winter is coming. But before the landscape becomes barren, we are treated to a gorgeous landscape of reds, golds,

yellows and all shades in between.

So why or how does the process happen, before the leaves fall from the trees? It basically comes down to a chemical reaction. All of those brilliant colors are always present, they're just masked during the warmer months by chlorophyll, the green pigment. In the fall, the chlorophyll begins to break down,

fading away, as water is cut off from entering the leaf (when temperatures drop) allowing all of the other colors to appear.

If you're planning travel to catch the sights of the season, every week we'll be bringing you foliage reports from across Connecticut and the Northeast on Channel 3! **WL**

**MARK ZINNI & ERIN CONNOLLY**

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